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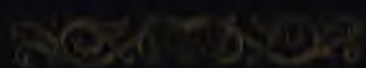
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A  
Midsummer Nights Dreame

Revised Edition



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E. C. Moore

Brookline, 1888



**Variant Edition**

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**SHAKESPEARE**



A

**MIDSOMMER NIGHTS DREAME**

**FACSIMILE REPRINT OF THE TEXT OF THE  
FIRST FOLIO, 1623**

*With Foot-Notes giving every Variant in Spelling and  
Punctuation occurring in the two Quartos of 1600,  
according to the perfect Copies of the Original  
Texts in the Barton Collection,  
Boston Public Library*

**WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES**

BY

**HENRY JOHNSON**



**BOSTON AND NEW YORK  
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY  
*The Riverside Press, Cambridge*  
1888**



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## Preface.

THE present edition of *A Midsummer nights Dreame* has been prepared with a view to assist in putting the study of this Shakespearian text on a more permanent basis than is commonly laid. It gives the original material in full, including every variation in spelling and punctuation of the two editions of the play published in Shakespeare's life-time, from the First Folio text. The latter has been used as the principal text for its having been the last which may have had the benefit of Shakespeare's manuscript authority.

While there will always be a place for conjectural emendation, the necessity for it is constantly diminishing with every advance in the knowledge of Elizabethan English.

Why should not the study of Shakespeare, at least in universities, begin with putting into the student's hands all the textual facts? Of course the student will never cease to need more help than the best teacher and all the commentators can give. This edition will be useful only if the supposition is correct, that teacher and student should be first concerned with what Shakespeare wrote, as far as the authoritative original texts enable us to judge. And it seems too much to assume that the grounds on which a word or a phrase is generally rejected as not Shakespeare's are either so profound or so delicate as to be beyond the judgment of any student. Whoever rejects the "Now bent" of I. i. 10 must do so on other grounds than that it is less beautiful or apt than Rowe's emendation, "New-bent." The notes include every variation from the texts of Fisher, Roberts, and the Folio which the Cambridge, Globe, Clarendon Press, Delius, Rolfe, Hudson, and White editions agree in adopting. For the source of these changes I am indebted to the Cambridge edition; I have, of course, verified the references whenever it has been

possible for me to do so. In all these editions the spelling and punctuation have been modernized throughout. Many stage-directions, which were deemed dispensable by the seventeenth-century editors, have been introduced into nearly all modern editions.

It is my agreeable duty to express my cordial thanks to Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, Librarian of the Boston Public Library, for facilities in the consultation of the Shakespearian treasures in his custody ; also to Mr. Arthur Mason Knapp, Librarian of Bates Hall, Boston Public Library, for courteous assistance.

BRUNSWICK, MAINE, *October, 1887.*

## Introduction.

I. DATE OF COMPOSITION. — Of the earliest known reference to *A Midsummer nights Dreame*, Halliwell-Phillipps, in his indispensable *Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare*, Seventh Edition, Longmans, London, 1887, II, 148, writes as follows : “The following extracts [including other references to Shakespeare besides the allusion to the present play] are from a treatise entitled ‘A comparative Discourse of our English poets with the Greeke, Latine and Italian poets,’ which is near the end of a thick little volume called ‘*Palladis Tamia. Wits Treasury, being the Second part of Wits Commonwealth. By Francis Meres, Maister of Artes of both Universities. Viuitur ingenio, cætera mortis erunt. — At London. — Printed by P. Short for Cuthbert Burbie, and are to be solde at his shop at the Royall Exchange, 1598.*’ There can be no doubt that this chapter was written in the summer of 1598, the work itself having been entered at Stationers’ Hall on the 7th of September in that year, and there being in the Discourse a notice of Marston’s *Satires* registered on the previous 27th of May.”

The reference to the present play is as follows : “As *Plautus* and *Seneca* are accounted the best for Comedy and Tragedy among the Latines : so *Shakespeare* among y<sup>e</sup> English is the most excellent in both kinds for the stage ; for Comedy, witnes his *Gëtlemē of Verona*, his *Errors*, his *Loue labors lost*, his *Loue labours wonne*, his *Midsummers night dreame*, and his *Merchant of Venice* : for Tragedy his *Richard the 2.* *Richard the 3.* *Henry the 4.* *King Iohn*, *Titus Andronicus* and his *Romeo and Juliet.*”

The year 1598 is consequently a date before which the play must have been written. With this limitation, the actual date of composition is as yet a matter of pure conjecture, based on considerations of plot, style, rhythm, etc., or on imaginable

allusions to events of recent occurrence. Moreover, the play may have been composed in honor of a marriage, and on this as a principal ground has been supposed to have been written as early as in 1590, the year of the marriage of Essex. This is the year to which it is ascribed in the English Philological Society's Dictionary, *s. v. Abridgment*. Perhaps the most generally preferred date of composition is 1594.

II. THE FIRST EDITION. — The first edition was published in 1600 by Thomas Fisher, with the following title-page:—

A  
Midfommer nights  
dreame.

As it hath beene fundry times pub-  
lickely acted, by the Right honoura-  
ble, the Lord Chamberlaine his  
*seruants.*

*Written by William Shakespeare.*

[Publisher's device.]

¶ Imprinted at London, for *Thomas Fisher*, and are to  
be foulded at his shoppe, at the Signe of the White Hart,  
in *Fleetestreete.* 1600.

This title-page and that of the second edition according to the Barton copies were published in facsimile among the illustrations in Mr. Justin Winsor's *Shakespeare Bibliography*, Boston, 1876. Mr. Winsor states that at that date, 1876, the Barton copy was the only one of the first edition in the United States. This continues to be the case.

Every student of Shakespeare is grateful for the publication of facsimiles in photo-lithography of the first and second editions of this play, with introductions by J. W. Ebsworth, M. A., which were issued in London, 1880, in the series of *Shakespeare Quarto Facsimiles*, executed under the superintendence of F. J. Furnivall, M. A., Ph. D. The Fisher

quarto facsimile was made up from photographs of two copies, that of the Duke of Devonshire being used for fifty-five pages, and that of Mr. Alfred H. Huth for the other eight, deficient in the duke's copy. The perfect Barton copy shows many more variations from this facsimile than one would look for, even in a book of that period. In some eighty-one cases I have noted the absence of a punctuation-mark or a letter from the facsimile while it would be plainly present in the Barton copy; as, for instance, in I. 1. 21, where the Barton copy has "*thee?*" and the facsimile "*thee*". In some sixty-one instances, where the facsimile might leave one in doubt as to the reading of the quarto, in such slight details as confusion of *f* and *ſ* or *r* and *t*, I find the Barton copy to furnish plainly the reading which would naturally be assumed to exist. In almost every case of this sort there can be no possible ambiguity as to the author's intention. This absence of doubt is also true in most cases of the lacking punctuation-marks and letters in the facsimile. There are also a few manifestly intentional corrections of the type during the course of the printing of the original edition.

The Fisher quarto (F) was entered in the Stationers' Register as follows:—

[A. D. 1600.] 8 Octobris.

Thomas ffysshier Entred for his Copie vnder the handes of master RODES / and the Wardens, A booke called *A Mydsommer nightes Dreame*. . . . vjd<sup>1</sup>

It was published in the same year, and consists of thirty-two leaves, thirty-five lines to a full page, excepting in the case of leaves G and G<sub>2</sub>, which have on each of the four pages thirty-four lines. The Duke of Devonshire's copy of the Roberts quarto has B<sub>1</sub> *verso* and B<sub>2</sub> *recto* printed from the identical forms which served for the same pages of the Fisher quarto. These pages, not being *recto* and *verso* of one leaf, cannot have been inserted in the copy. They prove the priority of the Fisher quarto, in which these pages are uniform in individualities of spelling with all the others, while they are conspicu-

<sup>1</sup> From Prof. Arber's *Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers, etc.*, III. 174, as quoted in the Fisher facsimile, page v, above referred to.

ously different from all the others in the Roberts quarto. The Barton copy of the Roberts quarto does not show this peculiarity, but has the two pages referred to quite uniform in spelling with the rest of the Roberts text. The copy used by the Cambridge editors was like the Barton.

This proves that there were at least two issues of the Roberts quarto. The punctuation of the Fisher quarto is careful, and, being manifestly rhetorical, if I may term it so, rather than grammatical, can never be ignored in the interpretation of the text.

III. THE SECOND EDITION. — The second edition (R) was not entered in the Stationers' Register. It was published in the same year as the first, with the following title-page: —

A  
Midfommer nights  
dreame.

As it hath beene fundry times pub-  
*likely acted, by the Right Honoura-*  
ble, the Lord Chamberlaine his  
*seruants.*

*Written by William Shakespeare.*

[Printer's device.]

*Printed by Iames Roberts, 1600.*

It consists likewise of thirty-two leaves, thirty-five lines to a full page. It corresponds with F, page for page to a word, though not line for line, excepting in the cases of leaves G and G<sub>2</sub> which are set up, presumably by oversight, a line short in F. With the last line of G<sub>3</sub> *recto* the uniformity with F is restored.

Although the identity of B *verso* and B<sub>2</sub> *recto* in R (Duke of Devonshire's copy) and F does not prove that Roberts was the printer of F, it shows, nevertheless, that he *may* have been, and so may have had access to the MS. which was used for F.

Almost the only improvements in R over F are typographi-

cal, consisting mainly in corrections of some twelve or fifteen misprints, none of them less obvious than that of I. 1. 4, *wanes* for *waues* in F. In one place, V. 1. 7-9, the alignment is corrected. Mention is made in the Notes of a few cases in which R has the appearance of having done more than correct the printer's errors in F; yet the ground of these changes may have been in the context only.

R changed freely the spelling and punctuation of F, and made frequent substitution of one word or phrase for another, with the result of mere variation in form, and not in sense.

R is not printed with nearly as great care as F. Cases of inferiority are numerous throughout the text. The facsimile of R in the Shakspeare Quarto Facsimile series, above referred to, shows a much closer likeness of the Duke of Devonshire's copy, from which the photographs were taken, to the Barton copy than was the case in the copies of F. There are only about twenty instances of seemingly lacking punctuation-marks or of like relatively insignificant variations, and some twenty-five cases in which the facsimile shows defective or doubtful punctuation or letters; as, for instance, in IV. 1. 182, *worne*. as against *worne*, in the Barton copy. There are at present six copies of the original Roberts quarto in the United States, located or owned as follows:—

Boston Public Library, Barton Collection.

Mr. Theodore Irwin, Oswego, N. Y.

Mr. Charles H. Kalbfleisch, New York.

Lenox Library, New York.

Mr. N. Q. Pope, Brooklyn.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Through the uniform kindness of the custodians or owners I have ascertained that these copies are all of the second issue.

IV. THE THIRD EDITION.—The third edition of the play consisted of pages 145-162 in the division of Comedies in the First Folio, 1623. This first collective edition of Shakespeare's plays adopted the Roberts text of the present play. It continues many obvious blunders of R, while its corrections of R and agreement with F are with rare exceptions plainly such as any intelligent reader could make.

The First Folio was reprinted with marvellous accuracy by



Lionel Booth, London, 1862-4. My collation of this reprint with the Barton copy did not result in the detection of a single variation except in the wholly insignificant case of IV. 1. 75, *Queene* for *Queen* in the Barton copy. As a matter of curiosity I note that the Barton copy and the Booth reprint agree in the misprinting of III. 1. 124, *with*, with inverted *i*, as against *with* in Staunton's Lithographic Facsimile of the First Folio, London, 1866 ; likewise in III. 2. 138, *my*, as against *my* in Staunton. These microscopic variations probably exist in the originals.

## Notes.

THE *division* of the text *into scenes*, in the present edition, is that adopted by modern editors, almost without exception.

The *line-numbers* of the parts of the play in verse are those of the metrical, and not of the typographical, arrangement. The lines of the parts in prose are numbered according to the printing of the First Folio which is facsimiled in this edition.

*The three texts are identical in spelling, punctuation, and alignment except so far as the foot-notes show the contrary.* It seemed useless, however, to include such a variation as the abbreviation *Hyp.* for *Hip.* when the same personage is unmistakably referred to in the three texts.

F stands for Fisher quarto.

R stands for Roberts quarto.

R\* stands for “ “ facsimile, Shakspeare Quarto Facsimiles, London, 1880.

<sup>28</sup> FR3 indicates that F and R begin their third page with the twenty-third line. The title-page is numbered 1, the reverse of it is blank, the next printed page, that of the opening of the play, 2, and so on.

[145<sup>1</sup>] indicates the page and column in the First Folio.

;]! F : R indicates that the ; is replaced by an ! in F and by a : in R.

-]om. F indicates that the hyphen is omitted, and that the words or parts of words so connected in the Folio are printed as *one* word in F. When a hyphen is in the Folio and the words are printed as two in F or R, they are so written in the foot-notes.

/ marks the end of a line.

is : / F is. / R indicates that the metrical line referred to is printed as a single line in F and R ending as shown.

The *dates* of the *principal* older editions of Shakspeare, and of such recent ones as are referred to in the notes, are : —

- 1632 Second Folio.
- 1664 Third “
- 1685 Fourth “
- 1709 Rowe.
- 1714 “, 2d edition.
- 1725 Pope.
- 1728 “, 2d edition.
- 1733 Theobald.
- 1744 Hanmer.
- 1747 Warburton.
- 1765 Johnson.
- 1767 Capell.
- 1790 Malone.
- 1793 Johnson and Steevens, 4th edition, revised and augmented by Isaac Reed.
- 1821 Boswell's Variorum.
- 1853 Halliwell's Folio edition.
- 1857 Dyce.
- 1863 Cambridge edition, Clark and Wright.
- 1864 Globe edition, Clark and Wright.
- 1877 Clarendon Press edition of Shakespeare's Select Plays, Wright.
- 1877 Friendly edition, Rolfe.
- [1877-1881] Leopold edition, text of Delius, introd. by Furnivall (Delius' 5th Germ. ed., 1882).
- 1880 Harvard edition, Hudson.
- 1883 Riverside edition, White.

Unless an exception is made by showing in ( ) the practice of a single editor, *the notes give merely the name of the editor proposing the given change*, which has been uniformly adopted by succeeding editors. Thus I. i. 10 Now bent] New-bent *Rowe* indicates that Rowe made the change referred to, and has been followed generally; and in particular by, at least, the Cambridge, Globe, Clarendon Press, Delius, Rolfe, Hudson, and White editions.

The *stage-directions* which are not assigned to any editor in the notes, are all as early as Capell, except V. i. 44, 48, 52, 56, 291, 334. I have not at hand the means to trace the source of the changes referred to in the notes on IV. i. 42 and 55.

- I. i. SCENE I. *Athens. The Palace of THESEUS.*
- 3 Moon Fo.] The absence of the final *e* seems to be due to a practice of omitting this silent letter in the case of crowded lines. This contraction

applies also to final double consonants, as in line 7, *wil*, and often. Compare I. 1. 201, *wold* R Fo, *wer* Fo. These shorter forms were also sometimes used, when there was no such typographical reason. F has *nights* on the title-page and at the top of page 2, where there was not in either case space for an extra *e*; the head-line of each page, however, excepting p. 61, has *nightes*.

- 10 Now bent] New-bent *Rowe*.  
 15 [*Exit Philostrate.*] *Theobald*.  
 24 Stand forth *Demetrius*. F and  
 26 Stand forth *Lisander*. F are the only stage-directions in F which have the personal names in italics. They were first printed as part of the text by *Rowe*.  
 127 *Exeunt* Fo] The loss or the lack of a punctuation-mark at the very end of a line is not uncommon; compare l. 201, I. 2. 110, and often.  
 136 loue] low *Theobald*.  
 187 Your words I] Yours would I *Hanmer*.  
 191 Ile (*Delius*)] I'd *Hanmer*.  
 216 sweld] sweet *Theobald*.  
 219 strange companions] stranger companies *Theobald*.  
 I. 2. SCENE II. *Athens*.  
       QUINCE'S house. *Capell*.  
 II. 1. SCENE I. *A wood near Athens*.  
       7 Moons FR Fo] The printers in all three cases may have omitted an *e* because of a crowded line.  
       48, 49 . . . crab / . . . bob /] Compare for the rhyme V. 1. 290—I. . . . pap / . . . hop /  
       60 (SCENE II. *Delius*.)  
       61 Fairy] Fairies *Theobald*. See note on IV. 2. 206.  
       79 Eagles] *Ægle Rowe*.  
       91 Hath] Have *Rowe*, 2d ed.  
       109 chinne] thin *Halliwell*, *Tyrwhitt's conjecture*.  
       177 when she F Fo whence she R] For a somewhat similar perversion of the text see IV. 1. 79, loath his F, loathe this R, loath this Fo, and IV. 1. 190, thing seemes FR, things seemes Fo.  
       190 stay] slay *Theobald*, *Thirlby's conjecture*.  
       stayeth] slayeth *Theobald*, *Thirlby's conjecture*.  
       242 [*Exit* DEM. *Capell* (om. *Delius*, *Hudson*).  
       244 (*Exit*] *Exeunt* DEMETRIUS and HELENA. *Delius*, *Hudson*.  
       247 Enter *Pucke*.] Re-enter PUCKE, after line 246.

- II. 2. SCENE II. *Capell.* (Sc. III. *Delius.*)  
*Another part of the wood.*  
 26 [*Exeunt Fairies.* *Rowe.*  
*Enter OBERON, and squeezes the flower on Titania's eyelids.* *Capell.*  
 34 [*Exit.* *Rowe.*  
 57 humane] human *Fourth Folio, 1685.*  
 100 Lysander! *Capell.*  
 119 humane] human *Fourth Folio, 1685.*
- III. 1. SCENE I. *The wood.* TITANIA lying asleep.  
 66 or] and *Collier MS.*  
 74 *Enter Pucke behind.*  
 79 *Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*  
 81 *Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*  
 85 [*Exit.* *Capell.*  
 86 *This. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*  
 90 *Thys. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*  
 98 *Thys. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*  
 100 *Re-enter PUCK, and BOTTOM with an ass' head.*] *Capell.*  
*Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*  
 159 *First Fai.* Ready.  
*Sec. Fai.* And I.  
*Third Fai.* And I.  
*Fourth Fai.* And I. (*om. Delius.*)  
*All. (Fourth Fai. Delius.)* Where shall we go?  
*Capell.*  
 171 *First Fai.* Hail, mortal!  
*Sec. Fai.* Hail! *Capell.*  
 172 *Third Fai.* Hail! *Capell.*  
 173 *Fourth Fai.* Hail! *Capell.*  
 192 you (*Delius*)] your *Third Folio, 1664* (you of *Collier MS., Hudson, Rolfe.*)
- III. 2. SCENE II. *Another part of the wood.*  
 6 love.] *Rowe.*  
 80 part I so : / See me no more, whether *Pope.*  
 85 slip] sleep *Rowe.*  
 141 coniealed F] Compare "coniealed frost" in *Clement Robinson's A Handefull of pleasant delites, Lond. 1584, p. 3, l. 7*; reprinted by Prof. Arber in *The English Scholar's Library, No. 3.*  
 190 bare] bear *Fourth Folio, 1685.*  
 201 See note on l. 257.  
 213 first life] first, like *Theobald, Folkes's conjecture.*  
 250 praise] prayers *Theobald.*  
 257 The text and the printing of F seem to me perfectly defensible. There is certainly no printed

unaccented syllable in the fifth foot, but on the stage the second *no* may have been delivered in the time of two syllables, if not actually as *no-o*. The typographical disarrangement which R introduced and Fo copied shows that, although they did not appreciate the rhythm of F, yet they did not add an extra monosyllabic word. The same uniform treatment by FRFo is to be observed in lines 201 and 421 of this scene. Compare Abbott, *Shak. Gram.*, 482.

- 264 O (*Delius*)] *om. Pope.*  
 406 Speak! In some bush?] *Capell.*  
 413 *Re-enter* LYSANDER.  
 420 [*Sleeps. Capell.*  
 421 See note on l. 257.  
 430 [*Lies down and sleeps. Capell.*  
 440 *Enter Hermia*] *Re-enter Hermia* after l. 441.  
 447 [*Lies down and sleeps.*  
 451 To your eye] *Rowe.*  
 452 *Squeezing the juice on Lysander's eyes. Rowe.*

## IV. 1.

SCENE I. *The same.* LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS,  
 HELENA, and HERMIA *lying asleep.*

The lines of this scene are wrongly numbered in the Globe ed. Titania's lines 27 and 30 are reckoned as two each.

- 41 alwaies] all ways *Theobald* (a while *Hanmer, Hudson, White.*)  
 42 Omit commas.  
 55 flowerets'  
 73 or] o'er *Theobald, Thirlby's conjecture.*  
 82 these five *Theobald, Thirlby's conjecture.*  
 93 Faire Fo] Compare V. 1. 16 aire Fo.  
 117 Seem'd *Second Folio, 1632.*  
 133 right] rite *Pope.*  
 172 see] saw *Steevens.* See for *saw* occurs very commonly in dialect usage in Maine, and presumably in Northern New England generally. "Soons he see me cummin, he run."  
 173 a] in *Steevens.*  
 206 about expound F] The emendation of F which seems necessary here, namely, *about t'expound*, is quite like that of II. 1. 61, Fairy skippe (skip R Fo) FRFo Fairies skip, which was made by *Theobald.*  
 208 but patcht a FR] Compare As You Like It, I. 1. 2, *but poor a*; and Abbott, *Shak. Gram.*, 422.

IV. 2. SCENE II. *Athens. QUINCE's house. Omit Thisby.*14 naught *Second Folio, 1632.*28 I am not true *Athenian FR]* Compare *Clement Robinson's A Handefull of pleasant delites*, Arber's Reprint, p. 30:—

I will be stil readie, as I am true man.

V. 1. SCENE I. *Athens. The palace of THESEUS.*43 [*Giving a paper. Theobald.*44 [*Reads.*48 [*Reads.*52 [*Reads.*56 [*Reads.*84 [*Exit PHILOSTRATE.*105 [*Re-enter PHILOSTRATE. Theobald.*176 [*Wall holds up his fingers. Capell.*202 [*Excunt PYR. and THIS. Dyce.*205 morall] mural *Pope, 2d ed. (wall White.)*

Now is the Moon vsed between the two neighbors. FR] The agreement of R with F gives a strong presumption in favor of the correctness of a reading. Something besides can be said for the reasonableness of this passage, which, as far as I can learn, has every editor against it. The Prologue had announced, lines 134-7:—

This man, with lanterne, dogge, and bufh of thorne,  
 Presenteth moone-shine. For if you will know,  
 By moone-shine did these louers thinke no scorne  
 To meete at *Ninus tombe*, there, there to woove:

The Enterlude then proceeded as far as this agreement of Pyramus and Thisbie to meet at the tomb, and Wall, who had served between the two neighbors, makes his explanation and leaves the stage. Thereupon the Duke says that now, in accordance with the statement of the Prologue, the Moon will be used between the two neighbors, probably in some such ingenuous way as the Wall had been.

260 [*The Lion shakes Thisbe's mantle, and exit. Capell.*266 beames] gleams *Staunton, Knight's conjecture.*

268 The following "Sonet" from *Clement Robinson's A Handefull of pleasant delites*, Arber's Reprint, pp. 30-32, shows marked coincidences with parts of this Enterlude, both in words and rhythm.

*A new Sonet of Pyramus and Thisbie.**To the [tune of], Downe right Squier.*

[Y]Ou Dames (I say) that climbe the mount of *Helicon*,  
 Come on with me, and giue account, what hath been  
 don :  
 Come tell the chaunce ye Muses all, and dolefull newes,  
 Which on these Louers did befall, which I accuse.  
 In *Babilon* not long agone, a noble Prince did dwell :  
 whose daughter bright dimd ech ones sight, so farre she  
 did excel.

† An other Lord of high renowne, who had a sonne :  
 And dwelling there within the towne, great loue be-  
 gunne :  
*Pyramus* this noble Knight, I tel you true :  
 Who with the loue of *Thisbie* bright, did cares renue :  
 It came to passe, their secrets was, beknowne vnto them  
 both :  
 And then in minde, they place do finde, where they their  
 loue vnclothe.

† This loue they vse long tract of time, till it befall :  
 At last they promised to meet at prime, by *Minus* well :  
 Where they might louingly imbrace, in lous delight :  
 That he might see his *Thisbies* face, and she his sight :  
 In ioyful case, she approcht the place, where she her  
*Pyramus*  
 Had thought to viewd, but was renewd, to them most  
 dolorous.

† Thus while she staies for *Pyramus*, there did proceed :  
 Out of the wood a Lion fierce, made *Thisbie* dread :  
 And as in haste she fled awaie, her Mantle fine :  
 The Lion tare in stead of praie, till that the time  
 That *Pyramus* proceeded thus, and see how lion tare  
 The Mantle this of *Thisbie* his, he desperately doth fare.

† For why he thought the lion had, faire *Thisbie* slaine.  
 And then the beast with his bright blade, he slew cer-  
 taine :  
 Then made he mone and said alas, (O wretched wight)  
 Now art thou in a woful case for *Thisbie* bright :  
 Oh Gods aboue, my faithfull loue shal neuer faile this  
 need :  
 For this my breath by fatall death, shal weaue *Atropos*  
 threed.

† Then from his sheathe he drew his blade, and to his hart  
 He thrust the point, and life did vade, with painfull  
 smart :  
 Then *Thisbie* she from cabin came with pleasure great,  
 And to the well apase she ran, there for to treat :  
 And to discusse, to *Pyramus* of al her former feares.  
 And when slaine she, found him truly, she shed fourth  
 bitter teares.

† When sorrow great that she had made, she took in hand  
 The bloudie knife, to end her life, by fatall hand.



You Ladies all, peruse and see, the faithfulness,  
 How these two Louers did agree, to die in distresse :  
 You Muses waile, and do not faile, but still do you  
 lament :  
 These louers twaine, who with such paine, did die so  
 well content.

*Finis.*

*I. Thomson.*

- 291 [*Stabs himself. (om. Delius.)*  
 297 [*Exit Moonshine. Capell.*  
 298 [*Dies. Capell.*  
 304 ?] *om. Rowe.*  
 310 Moth (*Delius*)] mote *Steevens, Heath's conjecture.*  
 334 [*Stabs herself. (om. Delius.)*  
 340 *Bot. (Starting up.) Capell. (om. Delius, Hudson.)*  
 350 [*A dance. Capell.*  
 359 (SCENE II. *Capell, Delius.*)  
 lion] *Rowe.*  
 360 beholds] behowls *Theobald, Warburton.*  
 388 *The Song.] Song and dance. Capell.*  
 407-8 These lines were transposed by *Staunton*, who  
 is followed by *Clar. Press, Globe, Hudson, Rolfe,*  
 and *White.*  
 410 [*Exeunt King, Queen, and train. Capell.*

## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

(*First given by Rowe.*)

THESEUS, Duke of Athens.

EGEUS, father to Hermia.

LYSANDER, } in love with Hermia.

DEMETRIUS, }

PHILOSTRATE, master of the revels to Theseus.

QUINCE, a carpenter.

SNUG, a joiner.

BOTTOM, a weaver.

FLUTE, a bellows-mender.

SNOUT, a tinker.

STARVELING, a tailor.

HIPPOLYTA, queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus.

HERMIA, daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander.

HELENA, in love with Demetrius.

OBERON, king of the fairies.

TITANIA, queen of the fairies.

PUCK, or Robin Goodfellow.

PEASEBLOSSOM, }

COBWEB, } fairies

MOTH, }

MUSTARDSEED, }

*Prologue,* }

*Pyramus,* }

*Thisbe,* }

*Wall,* }

*Moonshine,* }

*Lion,* }

Characters in the Interlude performed by the Clowns.

Other fairies attending their King and Queen. Attendants on Theseus and Hippolyta.

SCENE. *Athens, and a wood not far from it.*





A  
M I D S O M M E R  
Nights Dreame.

*Actus primus.*

*Enter Theseus, Hippolita, with others.*

*Theseus.*

**N**ow faire Hippolita, our nuptiall houre [145<sup>1</sup>]  
Drawes on apace: foure happy daies bring in  
Another Moon: but oh, me thinkes, how slow  
This old Moon wanes; She lingers my desires  
Like to a Step-dame, or a Dowager, 5  
Long withering out a yong mans reuennew.

*Hip.* Foure daies wil quickly steep theselues in nights  
Foure nights wil quickly dreame away the time:  
And then the Moone, like to a filuer bow,  
Now bent in heauen, shal behold the night 10  
Of our solemnities.

*The.* Go *Philoftrate*,  
Stirre vp the Athenian youth to merriments,  
Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth,  
Turne melancholy forth to Funerals:  
The pale companion is not for our pompe, 15  
Hippolita, I woo'd thee with my sword,  
And wonne thy loue, doing thee iniuries:  
But I will wed thee in another key,  
With pompe, with triumph, and with reuelling.

*Enter Egeus and his daughter Hermia, Lyfander,  
and Demetrius.*

*Ege.* Happy be *Theseus*, our renowned Duke. 20

*The.* Thanks good *Egeus*: what's the news with thee?

*Ege.* Full of vexation, come I, with complaint  
Against my childe, my daughter Hermia.

*Stand forth Demetrius.*

FR2 *Actus primus.* om. FR <sup>1</sup>hower F <sup>2</sup>Draws F apafe F fower F  
<sup>3</sup>An other F <sup>4</sup>Moone FR me thinks F me-thinks R <sup>5</sup>Moone FR  
waues F ;| F : R -sires, F <sup>6</sup>-|om. F -dam R <sup>7</sup>young R reue-  
newe F reuennew R <sup>8</sup>Fower F will FR steepe FR night: F <sup>9</sup>Fower F  
nights]daies R will FR <sup>10</sup>bowe F <sup>11</sup>shall FR beholde F <sup>12</sup>Goe FR  
<sup>13</sup>peart FR <sup>14</sup>foorth FR <sup>15</sup>pomp F ,. FR <sup>16</sup>Hyp- F <sup>17</sup>reuel-  
ing F *Lyfander*] and *Lyfander* and *Helena* F and *Lyfander, Helena* R  
<sup>21</sup>Thankes F :. FR Whats F newes FR <sup>22</sup>FR3 <sup>24</sup>foorth R *Deme-* FR

My Noble Lord,  
This man hath my consent to marrie her. 25

*Stand forth Lyfander.*

And my gracious Duke,  
This man hath bewitch'd the bosome of my childe :  
Thou, thou *Lyfander*, thou hast giuen her rimes,  
And interchang'd loue-tokens with my childe :  
Thou hast by Moone-light at her window fung, 30  
With faining voice, verses of faining loue,  
And stolne the impressiō of her fantasie,  
With bracelets of thy haire, rings, gawdes, conceits,  
Knackes, trifles, Nose-gaies, sweet meats (messengers  
Of strong preuailment in vnhardned youth) 35  
With cunning hast thou filch'd my daughters heart, [145<sup>2</sup>]  
Turn'd her obedience (which is due to me)  
To stubborne harshnesse. And my gracious Duke,  
Be it so she will not heere before your Grace,  
Consent to marrie with *Demetrius*, 40

I beg the ancient priuiledge of Athens ;  
As she is mine, I may dispose of her ;  
Which shall be either to this Gentleman,  
Or to her death, according to our Law,  
Immediately provided in that case. 45

*The.* What say you *Hermia*? be aduis'd faire Maide,  
To you your Father should be as a God ;  
One that compos'd your beauties ; yea and one  
To whom you are but as a forme in waxe  
By him imprinted : and within his power, 50  
To leaue the figure, or disfigure it :

*Demetrius* is a worthy Gentleman.

*Her.* So is *Lyfander*.

*The.* In himselfe he is.

But in this kinde, wanting your fathers voyce.  
The other must be held the worthier. 55

*Her.* I would my father look'd but with my eyes.

*The.* Rather your eies must with his iudgment looke.

*Her.* I do entreat your Grace to pardon me.

I know not by what power I am made bold,

<sup>26</sup>-ry FR <sup>26</sup>foorth R *Lif* F -tious F <sup>27</sup>-witcht FR :]. F <sup>28</sup>loue  
tokens FR <sup>29</sup>haft, F -light, F -dowe F <sup>30</sup>phantasie : F <sup>31</sup>-ceites F  
<sup>32</sup>Knacks R -]om. FR <sup>33</sup>sweete F <sup>34</sup>meates FR <sup>35</sup>-uailment FR  
-dened FR <sup>36</sup>flcht FR <sup>37</sup>Turnd FR mee F <sup>38</sup>And, F -tious F  
<sup>39</sup>fo, F here, F here R <sup>40</sup>-ry FR <sup>41</sup>aun- F :]. F <sup>42</sup>].: F <sup>43</sup>be, F  
<sup>44</sup>].: F <sup>45</sup>lawe F <sup>46</sup>atly FR -ded, F <sup>47</sup>you, F -uif'd, FR maid FR  
].: F <sup>48</sup>you, F shoud R :].: FR <sup>49</sup>].: F <sup>50</sup>one, FR <sup>51</sup>whome F  
wax, F wax R <sup>52</sup>].: FR <sup>53</sup>*Lif* F is :/ F is. / R <sup>54</sup>voice F .], FR  
<sup>55</sup>FR4 lookt FR <sup>56</sup>eyes FR must, F iudgement, F iudgement R .], F  
<sup>57</sup>doe F intreat F intreat R grace, F mee F <sup>58</sup>power, F bould ; F

I. 1. 60-96.] *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* 3

Nor how it may concerne my modestie 60  
In such a preface heere to pleade my thoughts :  
But I beseech your Grace, that I may know  
The worst that may befall me in this case,  
If I refuse to wed *Demetrius*.

*The.* Either to dye the death, or to abiure 65  
For euer the society of men.  
Therefore faire *Hermia* question your desires,  
Know of your youth, examine well your blood,  
Whether (if you yeeld not to your fathers choice)  
You can endure the liuerie of a Nunne, 70  
For aye to be in shady Cloister mew'd,  
To liue a barren sifter all your life,  
Chanting faint hymnes to the cold fruitlesse Moone,  
Thrice blessed they that master so their blood,  
To vndergo such maiden pilgrimage, 75  
But earthlier happie is the Rose distil'd,  
Then that which withering on the virgin thorne,  
Growes, liues, and dies, in single blessednesse.

*Her.* So will I grow, so liue, so die my Lord, [146<sup>1</sup>]  
Ere I will yeeld my virgin Patent vp 80  
Vnto his Lordship, whose vnwished yoake,  
My foule consents not to giue foueraignty.

*The.* Take time to pause, and by the next new Moon  
The sealing day betwixt my loue and me, .  
For euerlasting bond of fellowship : 85  
Vpon that day either prepare to dye,  
For disobedience to your fathers will,  
Or else to wed *Demetrius* as hee would,  
Or on *Dianaes* Altar to protest  
For aie, austeritie, and single life. 90

*Dem.* Relent sweet *Hermia*, and *Lysander*, yeelde  
Thy crazed title to my certaine right.

*Lys.* You haue her fathers loue, *Demetrius* :  
Let me haue *Hermias* : do you marry him.

*Egeus.* Scornfull *Lysander*, true, he hath my Loue ; 95  
And what is mine, my loue shall render him.

<sup>60</sup> modesty, FR <sup>61</sup> preface, here FR plead FR ;]; R <sup>62</sup> knowe F  
<sup>63</sup> mee F <sup>64</sup> dy F die R abiure, F <sup>65</sup> euer, F <sup>67</sup> Therefore, F  
*Hermia*, FR <sup>68</sup> Knowe F <sup>69</sup> yeelde F choyce FR <sup>70</sup> liuery FR  
<sup>71</sup> cloyster, F ,]om. FR <sup>72</sup> barraine F <sup>73</sup> Chaunting F hymnes, F  
colde FR ,]. FR <sup>74</sup> Thrife F they, F bloode F <sup>75</sup> vndergoe F  
;]; F <sup>76</sup> earthlier F happy FR distild FR <sup>77</sup> that, which, F <sup>79</sup> growe F  
dye R <sup>80</sup> yield F Patent, F <sup>81</sup> -shippe F yoake,]yoake FR <sup>82</sup> ainty FR  
<sup>83</sup> pause F newe F moone, FR <sup>84</sup> day, F mee F <sup>85</sup> -shippe, F  
<sup>88</sup> -ius, FR he FR wold R <sup>89</sup> -test, FR <sup>90</sup> aye FR -tie and F <sup>91</sup> FR  
Relent, F sweete FR and, F yeeld FR <sup>94</sup> -mias FR doe F  
<sup>96</sup> Scornefull F ;]; F <sup>96</sup> And FR

And she is mine, and all my right of her,  
I do estate vnto *Demetrius*.

*Lys.* I am my Lord, as well deriu'd as he,  
As well possesse: my loue is more then his: 100  
My fortunes euery way as fairely ranck'd  
(If not with vantage) as *Demetrius*:  
And (which is more then all these boasts can be)  
I am belou'd of beauteous *Hermia*.

Why should not I then prosecute my right? 105  
*Demetrius*, Ile auouch it to his head,  
Made loue to *Nedars* daughter, *Helena*,  
And won her soule: and she (sweet Ladie) dotes,  
Deuoutly dotes, dotes in Idolatry,  
Vpon this spotted and inconstant man. 110

*The.* I must confesse, that I haue heard so much,  
And with *Demetrius* thought to haue spoke thereof:  
But being ouer-full of selfe-affaires,  
My minde did lose it. But *Demetrius* come, 115  
And come *Egeus*, you shall go with me,  
I haue some priuate schooling for you both.  
For you faire *Hermia*, looke you arme your selfe,  
To fit your fancies to your Fathers will;  
Or else the Law of Athens yeelds you vp  
(Which by no meanes we may extenuate) 120  
To death, or to a vow of single life.

Come my *Hippolita*, what cheare my loue?  
*Demetrius* and *Egeus* go along:  
I must imploy you in some businesse  
Against our nuptiall, and conferre with you 125  
Of something, neerely that concernes your selues.

*Ege.* With dutie and desire we follow you. *Exeunt*

*Manet Lysander and Hermia.*

*Lys.* How now my loue? Why is your cheek so pale?  
How chance the Roses there do fade so fast?

*Her.* Belike for want of raine, which I could well 130  
Beteeme them, from the tempest of mine eyes.

*Lys.* For ought that euer I could reade,  
Could euer heare by tale or historie,

<sup>97</sup> her,] her FR <sup>98</sup> doe F <sup>99</sup> hee FR <sup>100</sup> than F <sup>101</sup> rankt F  
ranckt R <sup>102</sup> boastes F <sup>104</sup> -tious FR <sup>106</sup> heade F <sup>108</sup> sweete FR  
Lady R <sup>111</sup> much; F <sup>112</sup> And, F <sup>-ius</sup>, FR ;] R <sup>113</sup> But, F  
ouer full FR <sup>114</sup> loose F <sup>115</sup> goe F mee: F <sup>117</sup> you, faire F  
<sup>118</sup> -cies, F <sup>119</sup> else, F <sup>121</sup> vowe F <sup>122</sup> *Hippolita*: F ;] R <sup>123</sup> goe FR  
<sup>124</sup> employ F <sup>-nesse</sup>, F <sup>126</sup> FR6 some thing F <sup>127</sup> duety F  
duty R <sup>128</sup> desire, FR *Manet Lysander and Hermia*] om. FR <sup>129</sup> cheek F  
<sup>130</sup> doe F <sup>131</sup> Belike, F ;] F; R <sup>132</sup> my FR <sup>133</sup> For] Eigh me: for F  
Eigh me; for R aught F euer I could] I could euer FR <sup>134</sup> here F  
-ry FR

The courfe of true loue neuer did run fmooth,  
But either it was different in blood. 135

*Her.* O crosse! too high to be enthral'd to loue.

*Lyf.* Or elfe mifgraffed, in refpect of yeares.

*Her.* O fpight! too old to be ingag'd to yong.

*Lyf.* Or elfe it flood vpon the choife of merit.

*Her.* O hell! to choofe loue by anothers eie. 140

*Lyf.* Or if there were a fimpathie in choife,

Warre, death, or fickneffe, did lay fiege to it ;

Making it momentarie, as a found :

Swift as a fhadow, fhort as any dreame, [146<sup>2</sup>]

Briefe as the lightning in the collied night, 145

That (in a spleene) vnfoldes both heauen and earth ;

And ere a man hath power to fay, behold,

The iawes of darkneffe, do deuoure it vp :

So quicke bright things come to confufion.

*Her.* If then true Louers haue beene euer croft, 150

It ftands as an edict in deftinie :

Then let vs teach our triall patience,

Because it is a customarie crosse,

As due to loue, as thoughts, and dreames, and fighes,

Wifhes and teares ; poore Fancies followers. 155

*Lyf.* A good perfuafion ; therefore heare me *Hermia*,

I haue a Widdow Aunt, a dowager,

Of great reuennew, and ſhe hath no childe,

From Athens is her houfe remou'd feuen leagues,

And ſhe refpects me, as her onely ſonne : 160

There gentle *Hermia*, may I marrie thee,

And to that place, the ſharpe Athenian Law

Cannot purſue vs. If thou lou'ſt me, then

Steale forth thy fathers houfe to morrow night :

And in the wood, a league without the towne, 165

(Where I did meete thee once with *Helena*,

To do obſeruance for a morne of May)

There will I ſtay for thee.

*Her.* My good *Lyſander*,

<sup>134</sup> runne fmoother FR .]; F <sup>135</sup> bloud ; FR <sup>136</sup> inthrald FR <sup>137</sup> .]; FR <sup>138</sup> olde FR young F <sup>139</sup> elfe, F <sup>140</sup> ſtoode F choyce F merit.] friends ; FR <sup>141</sup> Or, FR <sup>142</sup> death or F <sup>143</sup> ſiege R <sup>144</sup> momentany FR .]; FR <sup>145</sup> Swift, F <sup>146</sup> ſhadowe F .]; FR <sup>147</sup> ſhort, F .]; FR <sup>148</sup> Briefe, F <sup>149</sup> lightening R <sup>150</sup> And, F <sup>151</sup> beholde F <sup>152</sup> darkeneſſe F <sup>153</sup> bin FR <sup>154</sup> edict, F -ny FR <sup>155</sup> patience : F <sup>156</sup> -ary FR <sup>157</sup> dewe F <sup>158</sup> Wifhes, F <sup>159</sup> .]; FR mee, F me, R .]; FR <sup>160</sup> widowe F widow R Ant R <sup>161</sup> reuennew FR childe : F <sup>162</sup> remou'd] remote, F remote R ſeaunen F <sup>163</sup> .]; F <sup>164</sup> refpects mee F only F <sup>165</sup> FR7 There, F marry FR .]; F <sup>166</sup> can not F loueſt FR mee F <sup>167</sup> houſe, FR <sup>168</sup> towne,] towne FR <sup>169</sup> .]; om. F <sup>170</sup> for] to FR



6 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [I. 1. 169-203.]

I sweare to thee, by Cupids strongest bow,  
 By his best arrow with the golden head, 170  
 By the simplicitie of Venus Doues,  
 By that which knitteth foules, and prospers loue,  
 And by that fire which burn'd the Carthage Queene,  
 When the false Troyan vnder saile was seene,  
 By all the vowes that euer men haue broke, 175  
 (In number more then euer women spoke)  
 In that same place thou hast appointed me,  
 To morrow truly will I meete with thee.  
*Lys.* Keepe promise loue : looke here comes *Helena*.

*Enter Helena.*

*Her.* God speede faire *Helena*, whither away? 180  
*Hel.* Cal you me faire? that faire againe vnlay,  
*Demetrius* loues you faire : O happie faire !  
 Your eyes are loadstarres, and your tongues sweet ayre  
 More tuneable then Larke to shepheards eare,  
 When wheate is greene, when hauthorne buds appeare, 185  
 Sicknesse is catching : O were fauor so,  
 Your words I catch, faire *Hermia* ere I go,  
 My eare should catch your voice, my eye, your eye,  
 My tongue should catch your tongues sweet melodie,  
 Were the world mine, *Demetrius* being bated, 190  
 The rest Ile giue to be to you translated.  
 O teach me how you looke, and with what art  
 you sway the motion of *Demetrius* hart.  
*Her.* I frowne vpon him, yet he loues me still.  
*Hel.* O that your frownes would teach my smiles 195  
 such skil.  
*Her.* I giue him curfes, yet he giues me loue.  
*Hel.* O that my prayers could such affection moouue.  
*Her.* The more I hate, the more he followes me.  
*Hel.* The more I loue, the more he hateth me.  
*Her.* His folly *Helena* is none of mine. 200  
*Hel.* None but your beauty, wold that fault wer mine  
*Her.* Take comfort : he no more shall see my face,  
*Lyfander* and my selfe will flie this place.

<sup>169</sup> bowe F <sup>170</sup> arrowe, F arrow, R heade F <sup>171</sup> -ty R <sup>172</sup> loues F  
<sup>173</sup> fire, F burn'd FR <sup>174</sup> *Troian* F sayle R <sup>177</sup> mee F <sup>178</sup> truly FR  
<sup>179</sup> ], R looke, F <sup>180</sup> ], F <sup>181</sup> Call FR mee F <sup>182</sup> you] your FR  
happy FR <sup>183</sup> loadstares R <sup>184</sup> sweete aire F <sup>185</sup> tuneable F <sup>186</sup> larke, F  
shepheards F <sup>187</sup> wheat F <sup>188</sup> buddes F <sup>189</sup> ], F <sup>190</sup> O, F fauour FR  
<sup>191</sup> -mia, F goe FR <sup>192</sup> sweete F <sup>193</sup> -dy FR <sup>194</sup> ], F <sup>195</sup> O, F mee F  
Art, FR <sup>196</sup> You FR <sup>197</sup> heart FR <sup>198</sup> FR <sup>199</sup> ], F <sup>200</sup> hee F <sup>201</sup> mee F  
<sup>202</sup> frowns FR <sup>203</sup> wold R <sup>204</sup> ], F <sup>205</sup> R <sup>206</sup> skil./FR <sup>207</sup> ], F <sup>208</sup> mee F <sup>209</sup> mee F  
<sup>210</sup> mee F <sup>211</sup> folly, FR <sup>212</sup> *Helena*, F none] no fault F <sup>213</sup> ], F <sup>214</sup> would F  
were FR <sup>215</sup> mine. FR <sup>216</sup> ], F <sup>217</sup> fly FR

Before the time I did *Lysander* see,  
Seem'd Athens like a Paradife to mee. 205  
O then, what graces in my Loue do dwell, [147<sup>1</sup>]  
That he hath turn'd a heauen into hell.

*Lyf. Helen*, to you our mindes we will vnfold,  
To morrow night, when *Phæbe* doth behold  
Her filuer vifage, in the watry glaffe, 210  
Decking with liquid pearle, the bladed grasse  
(A time that Louers flights doth still conceale)  
Through *Athens* gates, haue we deuise'd to steale.

*Her.* And in the wood, where often you and I,  
Vpon faint Primrose beds, were wont to lye, 215  
Emptying our bosomes, of their counsell sweld:  
There my *Lysander*, and my selfe shall meete,  
And thence from *Athens* turne away our eyes  
To seeke new friends and strange companions,  
Farwell sweet play-fellow, pray thou for vs, 220  
And good lucke grant thee thy *Demetrius*.  
Keepe word *Lysander* we must starue our sight,  
From louers foode, till morrow deepe midnight.

*Exit Hermia.*

*Lyf.* I will my *Hermia*. *Helena* adieu,  
As you on him, *Demetrius* dotes on you. *Exit Lysander.* 225

*Hele.* How happy some, ore otherfome can be?  
Through *Athens* I am thought as faire as she.  
But what of that? *Demetrius* thinks not so:  
He will not know, what all, but he doth know,  
And as hee erres, doting on *Hermias* eyes; 230  
So I, admiring of his qualities:  
Things base and vilde, holding no quantity,  
Loue can transpofe to forme and dignity,  
Loue looks not with the eyes, but with the minde,  
And therefore is wing'd *Cupid* painted blinde. 235  
Nor hath loues minde of any iudgement taste:  
Wings and no eyes, figure, vnheedy hafte.  
And therefore is Loue faid to be a childe,  
Because in choife he is often beguil'd,  
As waggish boyes in game themfelues forfwere; 240

204 *Li-* F 205 like] as F -dice R me R 206 dooe F 207 hee F  
turn'd F into] unto a F .]! F 208 wee F vnfold: F 209 beholde F  
211 -ing, F 212 time, FR 213 wee F deuise'd R 215 Pimrose R beddes F  
216 .], FR 218 thence, from *Athens*, F eyes, F 219 .], FR 220 Farewell, F  
sweete FR -]om. F .], F .], F 221 graunt F 222 -der: F 224 .], F  
225 dote FR 226 happie F -fome, F ?]! F 227 -ens, F thee F  
228 FR\*R9 229 knowe FR\* hee FR\* doe FR\* do R know. FR\*  
230 he R .], FR\* 231 .], FR\* 232 vile FR\*R -tie FR\* 233 -tie. FR\*  
234 minde: FR\* 235 wing'd FR\*R 237 Wings, FR\*R 238 bee FR\*  
], FR\* 239 Because, in choyce, FR\* often] fo oft FR\* oft R  
beguilde R .], FR\* 240 boyes, in game, FR\* .], FR\*

8 *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* [I. 1. 241-2. 21.

So the boy Loue is periur'd euery where.  
 For ere *Demetrius* lookt on *Hermias* eyne,  
 He hail'd downe oathes that he was onely mine.  
 And when this Haile some heat from *Hermia* felt,  
 So he dissolu'd, and showres of oathes did melt, 245  
 I will goe tell him of faire *Hermias* flight:  
 Then to the wood will he, to morrow night  
 Purfue her; and for his intelligence,  
 If I haue thanks, it is a deere expence:  
 But heerein meane I to enrich my paine, 250  
 To haue his fight thither, and backe againe. *Exit.*

*Enter Quince the Carpenter, Snug the Ioyner, Bottome the [I. 2.  
 Weauer, Flute the bellows-mender, Snout the Tinker, and  
 Starueling the Taylor.*

*Quin.* Is all our company heere?  
*Bot.* You were best to call them generally, man by  
 man, according to the scrip.  
*Qui.* Here is the scrowle of euery mans name, which  
 is thought fit through all *Athens*, to play in our Enter- 5  
 lude before the Duke and the Dutches, on his wedding  
 day at night.

*Bot.* First, good *Peter Quince*, say what the play treats  
 on: then read the names of the Actors: and so grow on  
 to a point. 10

*Quin.* Marry our play is the most lamentable Come-  
 dy, and most cruell death of *Pyramus* and *Thisbie*.

*Bot.* A very good peece of worke I assure you, and a  
 merry. Now good *Peter Quince*, call forth your Actors [1472]  
 by the scrowle. Masters spread your selues. 15

*Quince.* Answere as I call you. *Nicke Bottome* the  
 Weauer.

*Bottome.* Ready; name what part I am for, and  
 proceed.

*Quince.* You *Nicke Bottome* are set downe for *Py-* 20  
*ramus*.

<sup>241</sup> So, FR\* boy, Loue, FR\* <sup>242</sup> For, FR\* eyen FR\* <sup>243</sup> Hee FR\*  
 hayld FR\* haild R othes, FR\* <sup>244</sup> this] his R haile, R heate, FR\*  
 heate R -mia, FR\* <sup>245</sup> -solued FR\* showrs FR\* ], FR\* <sup>246</sup> go R  
<sup>247</sup> Then, FR\* wood] wodde, FR\* night, FR\* <sup>248</sup> ]; FR\* his] this FR\*R  
<sup>249</sup> thanks R deare FR\*R expence FR\* <sup>250</sup> herein FR\* <sup>251</sup> back FR\*  
 Quince, F ]; FR\* and Snugge, FR\* ]; FR\* and Bottom, FR\*  
 ]; FR\* and Flute, FR\* *Bellows mender* FR\* -lows R ]; FR\*  
 & Snout, FR\* ]; FR\* -ler FR\* <sup>1</sup> *Quin.* F <sup>2</sup> to] om. R scrip FR\*R  
<sup>3</sup> thoght R fit, FR\* al FR\* -lude, FR\*R <sup>4</sup> Duke, FR\* <sup>5</sup> night, R  
<sup>6</sup> ], om. FR\*R *Peeter* FR\* <sup>7</sup> grow on] grow FR\*R <sup>8</sup> FR\*R10  
 Mary, FR\* <sup>9</sup> -by FR\* <sup>10</sup> worke, FR\*R <sup>11</sup> *Peeter* FR\* foorth R  
 Actors, FR\* <sup>12</sup> Masters, sprede FR\* <sup>13</sup> Answere, FR\* Answer R  
 -tom, FR\* <sup>14</sup> ]; FR\* <sup>15</sup> -die: FR\* <sup>16</sup> -ceede FR\* <sup>17</sup> You, FR\*  
*Nicke* FR\*R -tom FR\*

*Bot.* What is *Pyramus*, a loue, or a tyrant?  
*Quin.* A Louer that kills himselfe most gallantly for loue.  
*Bot.* That will aske some teares in the true performing of it: if I do it, let the audience looke to their eies: I will mooue stormes; I will condole in some measure. To the rest yet, my chiefe humour is for a tyrant. I could play *Ercles* rarely, or a part to teare a Cat in, to make all split the raging Rocks; and shiuering shocks shall break the locks of prision gates, and *Phibbus* carre shall shine from farre, and make and marre the foolish Fates. This was lofty. Now name the rest of the Players. This is *Ercles* vaine, a tyrants vaine: a loue is more condoling.  
*Quin.* *Francis Flute* the Bellowes-mender.  
*Flu.* Heere *Peter Quince*.  
*Quin.* You must take *Thisbie* on you.  
*Flut.* What is *Thisbie*, a wandring Knight?  
*Quin.* It is the Lady that *Pyramus* must loue.  
*Flut.* Nay faith, let not mee play a woman, I haue a beard comming.  
*Qui.* That's all one, you shall play it in a Maske, and you may speake as small as you will.  
*Bot.* And I may hide my face, let me play *Thisbie* too: Ile speake in a monstrous little voyce; *Thifne*, *Thifne*, ah *Pyramus* my loue deare, thy *Thisbie* deare, and Lady deare.  
*Quin.* No no, you must play *Pyramus*, and *Flute*, you *Thisby*.  
*Bot.* Well, proceed.  
*Qu.* *Robin Starueling* the Taylor.  
*Star.* Heere *Peter Quince*.  
*Quince.* *Robin Starueling*, you must play *Thisbies* mother?  
*Tom Snowt*, the Tinker.  
*Snowt.* Heere *Peter Quince*.  
*Quin.* You, *Pyramus* father; my self, *Thisbies* father; 65

<sup>22</sup>-mus? FR\* <sup>28</sup>kils FR\*R -selfe, FR\* gallant, FR\*R <sup>26</sup>perfourming R <sup>26</sup>.j. FR\*, R doe FR\*R eyes FR\*R <sup>27</sup>wil FR\* moue R ;j: FR\* -dole, FR\* <sup>31</sup>.j: FR\* <sup>32</sup>shocks, FR\* <sup>33</sup>breake FR\*R <sup>40</sup>-tie FR\* Now, FR\* <sup>43</sup>*Flute*, FR\* Bellowes mender FR\* .j? FR\* <sup>44</sup>Here *Peter* FR\* <sup>45</sup>You] *Flute*, you FR\* -by, FR\* -by R <sup>46</sup>*Fla.* FR\* -by? FR\*R <sup>47</sup>Lady, FR\* <sup>48</sup>.j: FR\* me FR\*R womā: FR\* <sup>49</sup>cō-/ming FR\* .jom. R <sup>50</sup>Thats FR\* al R .j: FR\* shal R ;j: FR\* <sup>52</sup>-by to FR\*R <sup>53</sup>voice FR\* <sup>54</sup>-mus, FR\* -by FR\*R <sup>55</sup>No no,] No, no: FR\* -mus: FR\* <sup>57</sup>*Thys*- FR\* <sup>58</sup>.ceede FR\* <sup>59</sup>-ling, FR\* Tailer FR\* Tailor R <sup>60</sup>Here *Peter* FR\* <sup>61</sup>*Thy/*byes FR\* <sup>62</sup>.j: FR\*R <sup>63</sup>FR11 *Snowte* F .j? F <sup>64</sup>Here FR <sup>65</sup>selfe FR

*Snugge* the Ioyner, you the Lyons part: and I hope there is a play fitted.

*Snug.* Haue you the Lions part written? pray you if be, giue it me, for I am flow of studie.

*Quin.* You may doe it *extemporic*, for it is nothing 70 but roaring.

*Bot.* Let mee play the Lyon too, I will roare that I will doe any mans heart good to heare me. I will roare, that I will make the Duke fay, Let him roare againe, let him roare againe. 75

*Quin.* If you should doe it too terribly, you would fright the Dutcheffe and the Ladies, that they would thrike, and that were enough to hang vs all.

*All.* That would hang vs euery mothers sonne.

*Bottom.* I graunt you friends, if that you should 80 fright the Ladies out of their Wittes, they would haue no more discretion but to hang vs: but I will aggrauate my voyce so, that I will roare you as gently as any fucking Doue; I will roare and 'twere any Nightingale. 85

*Quin.* You can play no part but *Piramus*, for *Piramus* is a sweet-fac'd man, a proper man as one shall see in [148<sup>1</sup>] a summers day; a most louely Gentleman-like man, therefore you must needs play *Piramus*.

*Bot.* Well, I will vndertake it. What beard were I 90 best to play it in?

*Quin.* Why, what you will.

*Bot.* I will discharge it, in either your straw-colour beard, your orange tawnie beard, your purple in graine beard, or your French-crowne colour'd beard, your perfect yellow. 95

*Quin.* Some of your French Crownes haue no haire at all, and then you will play bare-fac'd. But masters here are your parts, and I am to intreat you, request you, and desire you, to con them by too morrow night: and meet 100 me in the palace wood, a mile without the Towne, by Moone-light, there we will rehearse: for if we meete in

<sup>66</sup> Snugge, F there] here FR <sup>68</sup> Lyons FR you, F if] if it FR  
<sup>69</sup> bee F mee: F flowe FR -dy R <sup>70</sup> do R it, F -pore: F -pore, R  
<sup>72</sup> me R to. F roare, FR <sup>73</sup> do R mee F <sup>74</sup> say; F againe: F  
again, R <sup>76</sup> If] And F do FR <sup>77</sup> esse, F <sup>78</sup> ], F inough F <sup>79</sup> vs, F  
<sup>80</sup> grant FR you, F that] om. FR <sup>81</sup> wits FR <sup>82</sup> tion, F <sup>83</sup> voice F  
will F -ly, F <sup>84</sup> ], F roare] roare you, F roare you R 'twere R  
<sup>86</sup> ], F <sup>87</sup> [sweete fac't F sweet fac't R ], F shal R <sup>88</sup> fommers FR  
-]om. FR ], F there- FR <sup>89</sup> needes F <sup>90</sup> ], F <sup>92</sup> ], F <sup>93</sup> wil F  
eyther R straw colour F <sup>94</sup> -ny R bearde F <sup>95</sup> french crowne colour FR  
perfit FR <sup>96</sup> ], FR bare fac't FR maisters F heere R <sup>99</sup> entreat R  
<sup>100</sup> desire / FR <sup>101</sup> to] to F meete FR <sup>102</sup> mee F <sup>103</sup> ], F will wee F

the Citie, we shalbe dog'd with company, and our deuif-  
fes knowne. In the meane time, I wil draw a bil of pro-  
perties, such as our play wants. I pray you faile me not. 105

*Bottom.* We will meete, and there we may rehearse  
more obfcenely and couragioufly. Take paines, be per-  
fect, adieu.

*Quin.* At the Dukes oake we meete.

*Bot.* Enough, hold or cut bow-strings.

*Exeunt* 110

*Actus Secundus.*

*Enter a Fairie at one doore, and Robin good-  
fellow at another.*

*Rob.* How now spirit, whether wander you?

*Fai.* Ouer hil, ouer dale, through bush, through briar,  
Ouer parke, ouer pale, through flood, through fire, 5  
I do wander euerie where, fwifter then  $\frac{y}{2}$  Moons sphere;  
And I ferue the Fairy Queene, to dew her orbs vpon the  
The Cowslips tall, her pensioners bee, (green. 10  
In their gold coats, spots you fee,  
Thofe be Rubies, Fairie fauors,  
In thofe freckles, liue their fauors,  
I muft go feeke fome dew drops heere,  
And hang a pearle in euery cowslips eare. 15  
Farewell thou Lob of spirits, Ile be gon,  
Our Queene and all her Elues come heere anon.

*Rob.* The King doth keepe his Reuels here to night,  
Take heed the Queene come not within his fight,  
For *Oberon* is pafing fell and wrath, 20  
Becaufe that fhe, as her attendant, hath  
A louely boy stolne from an Indian King,  
She neuer had fo fweet a changeling,  
And iealous *Oberon* would haue the childe

<sup>108</sup> city F Citty R wee F shal be F shall be R dogd FR  
<sup>104</sup> known F will FR bill FR <sup>106</sup> Wee F <sup>107</sup> more] most F -ly, F  
cor- F bee F perfit FR <sup>108</sup> ,]: F <sup>109</sup> Qnin F oke F wee F <sup>110</sup> ,]: F  
holde, F -]om. F *Actus Secundus*] om. FR ¶ *Enter* F *fairy* R  
-]om. F <sup>1</sup> whither F <sup>2</sup> hill FR <sup>3</sup> thorough bush, thorough F brier FR  
<sup>4</sup> thorough flood, thorough fire: F <sup>5</sup> euerie FR ,]: F <sup>6</sup> than F ,]: F  
<sup>7</sup> orbes R greene FR <sup>8</sup> -flippes F ,]om. F be R <sup>9</sup> spottes F ,]: F  
<sup>12</sup> -bies. Fairy R fauours FR ,]: F <sup>13</sup> fauours. F <sup>14</sup> goe FR  
droppes F here FR <sup>15</sup> couflippes F <sup>16</sup> Farwell R Lobbe F ,]: F  
gon. F gone, R <sup>17</sup> Queene, F here FR <sup>18</sup> heere R ,]. F <sup>19</sup> heede F  
], F <sup>20</sup> ,]: F <sup>21</sup> stollen, F stollen R ,]: F <sup>22</sup> fweete FR ,]. F  
<sup>24</sup> childe, FR

Knight of his traine, to trace the Forrefts wilde. 25  
 But she (perforce) with-holds the loued boy,  
 Crownes him with flowers, and makes him all her ioy.  
 And now they neuer meete in groue, or greene,  
 By fountaine cleere, or spangled star-light sheene,  
 But they do square, that all their Elues for feare 30  
 Creepe into Acorne cups and hide them there.

*Fai.* Either I mistake your shape and making quite,  
 Or else you are that shrew'd and knauish spirit  
 Cal'd Robin Good-fellow. Are you not hee,  
 That frights the maidens of the Villagere, 35  
 Skim milke, and sometimes labour in the querne,  
 And bootlesse make the breathlesse hufwife cherne,  
 And sometime make the drinke to beare no barme,  
 Misleade night-wanderers, laughing at their harme, [148<sup>2</sup>]  
 Those that Hobgoblin call you, and sweet Pucke, 40  
 You do their worke, and they shall haue good lucke.  
 Are not you he ?

*Rob.* Thou speak'st aright ;  
 I am that merrie wanderer of the night :  
 I left to *Oberon*, and make him smile,  
 When I a fat and beane-fed horse beguile, 45  
 Neighing in likenesse of a filly foale,  
 And sometime lurke I in a Gossips bole,  
 In very likenesse of a roasted crab :  
 And when she drinks, against her lips I bob,  
 And on her withered dewlop poure the Ale. 50  
 The wisest Aunt telling the saddest tale,  
 Sometime for three-foot stoole, mistaketh me,  
 Then slip I from her bum, downe topples she,  
 And tailour cries, and fals into a coffe.  
 And then the whole quire hold their hips, and loffe, 55  
 And waxen in their mirth, and neeze, and sweare,  
 A merrier houre vvas neuer wasted there.  
 But roome Fairy, heere comes *Oberon*.

*Fair.* And heere my Mistris :  
 Would that he vvere gone.

<sup>26</sup> shee, perforce, F she, perforce R withoulds F <sup>28</sup> FR13 now, F  
<sup>29</sup> cleare F -]om. FR <sup>30</sup> doe F Elues, for feare, F <sup>31</sup> cups, FR  
<sup>32</sup> shape, and making, F <sup>33</sup> els F shrewde F shrewd R sprite, F spirit, R  
<sup>34</sup> Cal'd FR -]om. F you not] not you F <sup>35</sup> Villageree F <sup>39</sup> Misleade F  
 Misleade R -]om. F harme? F <sup>40</sup> Those, F sweete Puck FR <sup>41</sup> doe F  
 luck F <sup>42</sup> hee F speakest F aright ; I - night. / FR <sup>43</sup> -ry F :]. F, R  
<sup>44</sup> ieast FR <sup>45</sup> ;] ; FR <sup>46</sup> Neyghing, F filly foale F <sup>47</sup> gossippes F  
<sup>48</sup> roasted FR crabbe F :], FR <sup>50</sup> dewlop, F <sup>51</sup> Aunt, F <sup>52</sup> Sometime, F  
 three foote, FR mee : F <sup>53</sup> flippe F bumme F <sup>54</sup> cries FR falles F :]; F  
<sup>55</sup> hould F hippes F <sup>56</sup> myrth F sweare,] sweare F <sup>57</sup> hower F <sup>58</sup> Faery : F  
 here FR <sup>59</sup> here, F here R mistresse FR :]. F gon. / F gone. / R

*Enter the King of Fairies at one doore with his traine,  
and the Queene at another with hers.*

*Ob.* Ill met by Moone-light,  
Proud *Tytania*. 60  
*Qu.* What, iealous *Oberon*? Fairy skip hence.  
I haue forsworne his bed and companie.  
*Ob.* Tarrie rash Wanton; am not I thy Lord?  
*Qu.* Then I must be thy Lady: but I know  
When thou vvasst stolne away from Fairy Land, 65  
And in the shape of *Corin*, fate all day,  
Playing on pipes of Corne, and versing loue  
To amorous *Phillida*. Why art thou heere  
Come from the farthest steepe of *India*?  
But that forfooth the bouncing *Amazon* 70  
Your buskin'd Mistrisse, and your Warrior loue,  
To *Thefeus* must be Wedded; and you come,  
To giue their bed ioy and prosperitie.  
*Ob.* How canst thou thus for shame *Tytania*,  
Glance at my credite, vvith *Hippolita*? 75  
Knowing I knovv thy loue to *Thefeus*?  
Didst thou not leade him through the glimmering night  
From *Peregenia*, whom he rauished?  
And make him vvith faire Eagles breake his faith  
With *Ariadne*, and *Atiopa*? 80  
*Qu.* These are the forgeries of iealousie,  
And neuer since the middle Summers spring  
Met vve on hil, in dale, forrest, or mead,  
By paped fountaine, or by russhie brooke,  
Or in the beached margent of the sea, 85  
To dance our ringlets to the whistling Winde,  
But vvith thy braules thou hast disturb'd our sport.  
Therefore the Windes, piping to vs in vaine,  
As in reuenge, haue suck'd vp from the sea  
Contagious fogges: Which falling in the Land, 90  
Hath euerie petty Riuer made so proud,  
That they haue ouer-borne their Continents.

Fairies, F doore, F traine; F Queene, at another, F <sup>60</sup>.]om. F  
-nia./FR <sup>61</sup>FR14 skippe F <sup>62</sup>bedde, F -ny FR <sup>63</sup>Tarry, F Tarry R  
;]. F <sup>64</sup>tby R <sup>65</sup>haft stollen FR <sup>66</sup>fat FR <sup>67</sup>loue, FR <sup>68</sup>here FR  
<sup>69</sup>steppe F <sup>70</sup>that, forfooth, the bounding *Amazon*, F -son, R  
<sup>71</sup>bulkind FR warrior F <sup>72</sup>bedde, F -ty R <sup>73</sup>thus, F shame, FR  
<sup>74</sup>Glaunce F credit F <sup>75</sup>-ing, F ?]. FR <sup>76</sup>thou not] not thou FR  
lead F night, FR <sup>77</sup>Perig- FR <sup>78</sup>him, F Eagles, F <sup>79</sup>*Antiope* FR  
<sup>80</sup>.]. F <sup>81</sup>neuer, F Sommers spring, FR <sup>82</sup>hill FR forrest or R  
meade F <sup>83</sup>russhy R <sup>84</sup>daunce F <sup>85</sup>brawles FR disturbd FR <sup>86</sup>pyp- FR  
<sup>87</sup>suckt FR vp, F Sea, FR <sup>88</sup>fogs; R which, F <sup>89</sup>euery pelting FR  
proude F <sup>90</sup>.]om. F



The Oxe hath therefore stretch'd his yoke in vaine,  
 The Ploughman loft his sweate, and the greene Corne  
 Hath rotted, ere his youth attain'd a beard : 95  
 The fold stands empty in the drowned field,  
 And Crowes are fatted vvith the murrion flocke,  
 The nine mens Morris is fild vp with mud, [149<sup>1</sup>]  
 And the queint Mazes in the wanton greene,  
 For lacke of tread are vndistinguifhable. 100  
 The humane mortals want their winter heere,  
 No night is now with hymne or caroll blest ;  
 Therefore the Moone (the gouernesse of floods)  
 Pale in her anger, washes all the aire ;  
 That Rheumaticke diseases doe abound. 105  
 And through this distemperature, we see  
 The seasons alter ; hoared headed frosts  
 Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson Rose,  
 And on old *Hyems* chinne and Icie crowne,  
 An odorous Chaplet of sweet Sommer buds 110  
 Is as in mockry fet. The Spring, the Sommer,  
 The childing Autumne, angry Winter change  
 Their wonted Liueries, and the mazed world,  
 By their increafe, now knowes not which is which ;  
 And this fame progeny of euills, 115  
 Comes from our debate, from our dissention,  
 We are their parents and originall.  
*Ober.* Do you amend it then, it lies in you,  
 Why should *Titania* crosse her *Oberon* ?  
 I do but beg a little changeling boy, 120  
 To be my Henchman.  
*Qu.* Set your heart at rest,  
 The Fairy land buyes not the childe of me,  
 His mother was a Votresse of my Order,  
 And in the spiced *Indian* aire, by night  
 Full often hath she gossip by my side, 125  
 And sat with me on *Neptunes* yellow sands,  
 Marking th'embarked traders on the flood,  
 When we haue laught to see the failes conceiue,  
 And grow big bellied with the wanton winde :  
 Which she with pretty and with swimming gate, 130

<sup>98</sup> stretcht FR yoke R <sup>95</sup> attaine F attained R bearde F <sup>96</sup> FR15  
 empty, FR <sup>97</sup> J. F <sup>98</sup> mudde: F <sup>99</sup> Mazes, F <sup>100</sup> tread, FR <sup>101</sup> J. F  
<sup>102</sup> hymne R carroll FR ; J. F <sup>105</sup> do R <sup>106</sup> And, thorough F wee F  
<sup>107</sup> ; J. F hoary F <sup>108</sup> lappe F Crymson F <sup>109</sup> Icy F <sup>110</sup> sweete FR  
 buddes F <sup>111</sup> Is, F mockery, F mockery R <sup>112</sup> J. F worlde F <sup>114</sup> ; J. F  
<sup>115</sup> euils FR <sup>116</sup> tion: F <sup>118</sup> Doe F J. F lyes FR J. F <sup>120</sup> doe F  
 begge F <sup>121</sup> J. F <sup>122</sup> Faery F buies FR mee F <sup>123</sup> J. F <sup>124</sup> ayer F  
 night, F <sup>125</sup> gossip, F <sup>126</sup> sat, F J. F <sup>127</sup> ; J. F <sup>128</sup> conceaue F  
<sup>129</sup> bigge bellied, F ; J. R <sup>130</sup> FR16 she, with prettie, F

II. I. 131-168.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 15

Following (her wombe then rich with my yong squire)  
Would imitate, and faile vpon the Land,  
To fetch me trifles, and returne againe,  
As from a voyage, rich with merchandize.  
But she being mortall, of that boy did die, 135  
And for her sake I doe reare vp her boy,  
And for her sake I will not part with him.

*Ob.* How long within this wood intend you stay?

*Qu.* Perchance till after *Theſeus* wedding day.  
If you will patiently dance in our Round, 140  
And see our Moone-light reuels, goe with vs ;  
If not, shun me and I will spare your haunts.

*Ob.* Giue me that boy, and I will goe with thee.

*Qu.* Not for thy Fairy Kingdome. Fairies away :  
We shall chide downe right, if I longer stay. *Exeunt.* 145

*Ob.* Wel, go thy way : thou shalt not from this groue,  
Till I torment thee for this iniury.  
My gentle *Pucke* come hither ; thou remembreſt  
Since once I fat vpon a promontory,  
And heard a Meare-maide on a Dolphins backe, 150  
Vttering ſuch dulcet and harmonious breath,  
That the rude ſea grew ciuill at her ſong,  
And certaine ſtarres ſhot madly from their Spheares,  
To heare the Sea-maids muſicke.

*Puc.* I remember.

*Ob.* That very time I ſay (but thou couldſt not) 155  
Flying betweene the cold Moone and the earth,  
*Cupid* all arm'd ; a certaine aime he tooke  
At a faire Veſtall, throned by the Weſt,  
And looſ'd his loue-ſhaft ſmartly from his bow,  
As it ſhould pierce a hundred thouſand hearts, 160  
But I might ſee young *Cupids* fiery ſhaft  
Quencht in the chaſte beames of the watry Moone ; [149<sup>2</sup>]  
And the imperiall Votreſſe paſſed on,  
In maiden meditation, fancy free.  
Yet markt I where the bolt of *Cupid* fell. 165  
It fell vpon a little weſterne flower ;  
Before, milke-white ; now purple with loues wound,  
And maidens call it, Loue in idleneſſe.

<sup>181</sup> young FR <sup>184</sup> marchandife F <sup>185</sup> ſhe, F <sup>186</sup> dye FR <sup>189</sup> And, F <sup>190</sup> ſake, doe I F <sup>191</sup> ſake do I R ;] F <sup>192</sup> And, F <sup>193</sup> ſake, F <sup>194</sup> long, F <sup>195</sup> wood, entend F <sup>196</sup> Perchaunce, F <sup>197</sup> daunce F <sup>198</sup> -] om. F <sup>199</sup> Reuelles F <sup>200</sup> go R ;] F <sup>201</sup> ſhunne me, F <sup>202</sup> mee F <sup>203</sup> go R <sup>204</sup> Fairie R ;] F <sup>205</sup> downe-right F <sup>206</sup> Well FR ;] F <sup>207</sup> goe F ;] F <sup>208</sup> thee, F <sup>209</sup> ;] F <sup>210</sup> -breſt, F <sup>211</sup> Mearemaide, F <sup>212</sup> herm- F <sup>213</sup> grewe F <sup>214</sup> certaine F <sup>215</sup> time, I ſaw F <sup>216</sup> could'ſt F <sup>217</sup> colde FR <sup>218</sup> *Cupid*, F ;] F <sup>219</sup> the] om. FR <sup>220</sup> ſmartly, F <sup>221</sup> bowe F <sup>222</sup> pearce F ;] F <sup>223</sup> But, F <sup>224</sup> chaſt F ;] F <sup>225</sup> FR17 <sup>226</sup> I, F <sup>227</sup> fel R <sup>228</sup> milke white F <sup>229</sup> purple, F

16 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [II. I. 169-202.]

Fetch me that flower ; the hearb I shew'd thee once,  
The iuyce of it, on sleeping eye-lids laid, 170  
Will make or man or woman madly dote  
Vpon the next liue creature that it sees.  
Fetch me this hearbe, and be thou heere againe,  
Ere the *Leuiathan* can swim a league.

*Pucke.* Ile put a girdle about the earth, in forty mi- 175  
nutes.

*Ober.* Hauing once this iuyce,  
Ile watch *Titania*, when she is asleepe,  
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes :  
The next thing when she waking lookes vpon,  
(Be it on Lyon, Beare, or Wolfe, or Bull, 180  
On medling Monkey, or on busie Ape)  
Shee shall pursue it, with the foule of loue.  
And ere I take this charme off from her sight,  
(As I can take it with another hearbe)  
Ile make her render vp her Page to me. 185  
But who comes heere ? I am inuisible,  
And I will ouer-heare their conference.

*Enter Demetrius, Helena following him.*

*Deme.* I loue thee not, therefore pursue me not,  
Where is *Lyfander*, and faire *Hermia* ?  
The one Ile stay, the other stayeth me. 190  
Thou toldst me they were stolne into this wood ;  
And heere am I, and wood within this wood,  
Because I cannot meet my *Hermia*.  
Hence, get thee gone, and follow me no more.

*Hel.* You draw me, you hard-hearted Adamant, 195  
But yet you draw not Iron, for my heart  
Is true as Steele. Leauē you your power to draw,  
And I shall haue no power to follow you.

*Deme.* Do I entice you ? do I speake you faire ?  
Or rather doe I not in plainest truth, 200  
Tell you I doe not, nor I cannot loue you ?

*Hel.* And euen for that doe I loue thee the more ;

<sup>169</sup> mee F flowre : F herbe F shewed F ,]. F <sup>170</sup> iewce F eyeliddes F  
laide FR <sup>171</sup> dote, F <sup>172</sup> mee F herbe F here FR ,]om. F <sup>173</sup> swimme F  
<sup>174</sup> girdle, round about F <sup>175</sup> iuyce F <sup>176</sup> when] whence R a sleepe F  
<sup>177</sup> droppe F it, F <sup>178</sup> when] then F she, waking, F ,]om. F <sup>179</sup> Monky F  
<sup>180</sup> She FR <sup>181</sup> charme, from of F ,]om. F <sup>182</sup> herbe F <sup>183</sup> Page, F  
mee F <sup>184</sup> But, F here F <sup>185</sup> ,]om. F <sup>186</sup> not : there- F not. F  
<sup>187</sup> ,]om. R <sup>188</sup> ,]: F <sup>189</sup> me, F into] vnto FR ;]: F <sup>190</sup> here FR  
wodde, within this wood : F <sup>191</sup> meete FR <sup>192</sup> thee] the F mee F  
<sup>193</sup> mee F hard hearted F ,]: F <sup>194</sup> ,]. F <sup>195</sup> FR18 <sup>196</sup> Doe I entice F  
Doe F <sup>197</sup> do R truthe F <sup>198</sup> do R nor] not FR <sup>199</sup> euen, for that, F  
do FR thee]you, F ;]: F

I am your spaniell, and *Demetrius*,  
 The more you beat me, I will fawne on you.  
 Vse me but as your spaniell ; spurne me, strike me, 205  
 Neglect me, lofe me ; onely giue me leaue  
 (Vnworthy as I am) to follow you.  
 What worfer place can I beg in your loue,  
 (And yet a place of high respect with me)  
 Then to be vsed as you doe your dogge. 210  
*Dem.* Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit,  
 For I am sicke when I do looke on thee.  
*Hel.* And I am sicke when I looke not on you.  
*Dem.* You doe impeach your modesty too much,  
 To leaue the Citty, and commit your selfe 215  
 Into the hands of one that loues you not,  
 To trust the opportunity of night,  
 And the ill counsell of a desert place,  
 With the rich worth of your virginity.  
*Hel.* Your vertue is my priuiledge : for that 220  
 It is not night when I doe see your face.  
 Therefore I thinke I am not in the night,  
 Nor doth this wood lacke worlds of company,  
 For you in my respect are nll the world. [150']  
 Then how can it be said I am alone, 225  
 When all the world is heere to looke on me ?  
*Dem.* Ile run from thee, and hide me in the brakes,  
 And leaue thee the mercy of wilde beafts.  
*Hel.* The wildest hath not such a heart as you ;  
 Runne when you will, the story shall be chang'd : 230  
*Apollo* flies, and *Daphne* holds the chafe ;  
 The Doue pursues the Griffin, the milde Hinde  
 Makes speed to catch the Tyger. Bootlesse speede,  
 When cowardise pursues, and valour flies.  
*Demet.* I will not stay thy questions, let me go ; 235  
 Or if thou follow me, doe not beleeeue,  
 But I shall doe thee mischief in the wood.  
*Hel.* I, in the Temple, in the Towne, and Field  
 You doe me mischief. Fye *Demetrius*,

<sup>203</sup>ell : and, F <sup>204</sup>beate R mee F <sup>205</sup>]; F strike mee, F <sup>206</sup>mee,  
 loofe me : F <sup>207</sup>leave R <sup>208</sup>-thie F <sup>209</sup>begge, F <sup>210</sup>om. F <sup>211</sup>yet, F  
 mee F <sup>212</sup>doe] vse FR dog R <sup>213</sup>not, too much, F <sup>214</sup>], F <sup>215</sup>sick, F  
<sup>216</sup>sick, F <sup>217</sup>do R <sup>218</sup>-tie F <sup>219</sup>citie F <sup>220</sup>selfe, F <sup>221</sup>-tie F <sup>222</sup>-tie F  
<sup>223</sup>night, F <sup>224</sup>do R <sup>225</sup>Therefore, I thinke, F <sup>226</sup>], F <sup>227</sup>you, F  
 respect, F <sup>228</sup>nll] all FR <sup>229</sup>Then, F <sup>230</sup>saide, F <sup>231</sup>here, F <sup>232</sup>here R <sup>233</sup>mee F  
<sup>234</sup>runne F <sup>235</sup>beastes F <sup>236</sup>]; F <sup>237</sup>], F <sup>238</sup>chaung'd FR <sup>239</sup>flies R  
 ],om. F <sup>240</sup>*Daphna* R <sup>241</sup>]; F <sup>242</sup>-fon : F <sup>243</sup>-fen, R <sup>244</sup>FR 19 <sup>245</sup>speede F  
 Tigre F <sup>246</sup>Tygre R <sup>247</sup>Bootel- F <sup>248</sup>valor flies R <sup>249</sup>], F <sup>250</sup>goe : F <sup>251</sup>fol-  
 lowe mee F <sup>252</sup>do FR <sup>253</sup>do R <sup>254</sup>-chiefe, F <sup>255</sup>and] the F <sup>256</sup>fielde, F  
<sup>257</sup>do R <sup>258</sup>Fy F <sup>259</sup>], F

18 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [II. 1. 240-2. 6.

Your wrongs doe set a scandall on my sexe : 240  
 We cannot fight for loue, as men may doe ;  
 We should be woo'd, and were not made to wooe.  
 I follow thee, and make a heauen of hell,  
 To die vpon the hand I loue so well. *Exit.*

*Ob.* Fare thee well Nymph, ere he do leaue this groue, 245  
 Thou shalt flie him, and he shall seeke thy loue.  
 Haft thou the flower there? Welcome wanderer.

*Enter Pucke.*

*Puck.* I, there it is.

*Ob.* I pray thee giue it me.

I know a banke where the wilde time blowes,  
 Where Oxlips and the nodding Violet growes, 250  
 Quite ouer-cannoped with luscious woodbine,  
 With sweet muske rofes, and with Eglantine ;  
 There sleepest *Tytania*, sometime of the night,  
 Lul'd in these flowers, with dances and delight :  
 And there the snake throwes her enammel'd skinne, 255  
 Weed wide enough to rap a Fairy in.  
 And with the iuyce of this Ile streake her eyes,  
 And make her full of hatefull fantasies.  
 Take thou some of it, and feek through this groue ;  
 A sweet *Athenian* Lady is in loue 260  
 With a disdainefull youth : annoint his eyes,  
 But doe it when the next thing he espies,  
 May be the Lady. Thou shalt know the man,  
 By the *Athenian* garments he hath on.  
 Effect it with some care, that he may proue 265  
 More fond on her, then she vpon her loue ;  
 And looke thou meet me ere the first Cocke crow.

*Pu.* Feare not my Lord, your seruant shall do so. *Exit.*

*Enter Queene of Fairies, with her traine.* [II. 2.

*Queen.* Come, now a Roundell, and a Fairy song ;  
 Then for the third part of a minute hence,  
 Some to kill Cankers in the muske rose buds,  
 Some warre with Reremise, for their leathern wings,  
 To make my small Elues coates, and some keepe backe 5  
 The clamorous Owle that nightly hoots and wonders

<sup>240</sup> do R sex FR <sup>241</sup> do R ;]: F <sup>243</sup> I] Ile FR thee and FR <sup>244</sup> dy F  
 dye R *Exit*] om. F <sup>245</sup> Nymph. F <sup>246</sup> fly F flye R <sup>248</sup> mee F <sup>250</sup> Ox-  
 lips, F <sup>251</sup> ouercanopi'd F ouercanoped R luscious FR <sup>252</sup> [sweete FR  
 ;]: F <sup>254</sup> Lul'd FR daunces F <sup>255</sup> -meld FR <sup>256</sup> rap] wrappe F  
<sup>257</sup> And, F this, FR <sup>258</sup> phan- F <sup>259</sup> feeke FR ;]: F <sup>260</sup> sweete FR  
 loue, F <sup>261</sup> ], F <sup>262</sup> do R it, F <sup>263</sup> Ladie F <sup>265</sup> ], F prooue FR  
<sup>266</sup> FR20 ;]: F <sup>267</sup> meete FR crowe F <sup>268</sup> ], F *Exeunt* FR  
*Queene*] *Tytania* *Queene* F <sup>1</sup> ;]: F <sup>2</sup> Then, F <sup>3</sup> musk F <sup>4</sup> lethren F  
<sup>6</sup> Owle, FR hootes FR

At our quaint spirits : Sing me now asleepe,  
Then to your offices, and let me rest.

*Fairies Sing.*

*You spotted Snakes with double tongue,  
Thorny Hedgehogges be not seene,* 10  
*Newts and blinde wormes do no wrong,  
Come not neere our Fairy Queene.*

*Philomele with melodie,*  
*Sing in your sweet Lullaby,* [150<sup>2</sup>]  
*Lulla, lulla, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby,* 15  
*Neuer harme, nor spell, nor charme,  
Come our louely Lady nye,  
So good night with Lullaby.*

*2. Fairy. Weauing Spiders come not heere,* 20  
*Hence you long leg'd Spinners, hence :*  
*Beetles blacke approach not neere ;*  
*Worme nor Snayle doe no offence.*  
*Philomele with melody, &c.*

*1. Fairy. Hence away, now all is well ;* 25  
*One aloofe, stand Centinell.* *Shee sleepes.*

*Enter Oberon.*

*Ober.* What thou see'st when thou do'st wake,  
Doe it for thy true Loue take :  
Loue and languish for his sake.  
Be it Ounce, or Catte, or Beare, 30  
Pard, or Boare with bristled haire,  
In thy eye that shall appeare,  
When thou wak'st, it is thy deare,  
Wake when some vile thing is neere.

*Enter Lysander and Hermia.*

*Lif.* Faire loue, you faint with wandring in y<sup>e</sup> woods, 35  
And to speake troth I haue forgot our way :  
Wee'll rest vs *Hermia*, if you thinke it good,  
And tarry for the comfort of the day.

*Ber.* Be it so *Lysander* ; finde you out a bed,  
For I vpon this banke will rest my head. 40

*Lys.* One turfe shall serue as pillow for vs both,  
One heart, one bed, two bosomes, and one troth.

<sup>7</sup>a sleepe: F <sup>8</sup>mee F <sup>9</sup>Snakes, F <sup>11</sup>blindewormes F <sup>12</sup>om. R  
<sup>13</sup>-mele, F <sup>14</sup>-dy FR <sup>15</sup>your] our FR <sup>16</sup>sweete F <sup>17</sup>sweett R <sup>18</sup>nigh F  
<sup>19</sup>], FR <sup>20</sup>night, F <sup>21</sup>2.] 1. FR <sup>22</sup>], F <sup>23</sup>legd FR <sup>24</sup>Spinders R  
<sup>25</sup>approch R <sup>26</sup>]; F <sup>27</sup>naile F <sup>28</sup>do R <sup>29</sup>1.] 2. FR <sup>30</sup>]; F <sup>31</sup>]; F  
<sup>32</sup>Shee sleepes] om. FR <sup>33</sup>see'st, F <sup>34</sup>doest F <sup>35</sup>Do R <sup>36</sup>thy] thy thy R  
<sup>37</sup>FR <sup>38</sup>21 <sup>39</sup>]; F <sup>40</sup>Wake, F <sup>41</sup>Lys- FR <sup>42</sup>-der: F <sup>43</sup>fainte, F <sup>44</sup>wood: F  
<sup>45</sup>]; F <sup>46</sup>Weele F <sup>47</sup>Wee'l R <sup>48</sup>comfor F <sup>49</sup>Be] Bet F <sup>50</sup>]; F  
bedde: F <sup>51</sup>I, F <sup>52</sup>banke, F <sup>53</sup>turffe R <sup>54</sup>serue, as pillow, F <sup>55</sup>bedde F

*Her.* Nay good *Lyfander*, for my fake my deere  
Lie further off yet, doe not lie so neere.

*Lyf.* O take the fence sweete, of my innocence, 45  
Loue takes the meaning, in loues conference,  
I meane that my heart vnto yours is knit,  
So that but one heart can you make of it.  
Two bosomes interchanged with an oath,  
So then two bosomes, and a fingle troth. 50  
Then by your fide, no bed-roome me deny,  
For lying so, *Hermia*, I doe not lye.

*Her.* *Lyfander* riddles very prettily ;  
Now much beshrew my manners and my pride,  
If *Hermia* meant to say, *Lyfander* lied. 55  
But gentle friend, for loue and courtesie  
Lie further off, in humane modesty,  
Such separation, as may well be said,  
Becomes a vertuous batchelour, and a maide,  
So farre be distant, and good night sweet friend ; 60  
Thy loue nere alter, till thy sweet life end.

*Lyf.* Amen, amen, to that faire prayer, say I,  
And then end life, when I end loyalty :  
Heere is my bed, sleepe giue thee all his rest.

*Her.* With halfe that wifh, the wifhers eyes be preft. 65

*Enter Pucke.*

*They sleepe.*

*Puck.* Through the Forrest haue I gone,  
But *Athenian* finde I none,  
One whose eyes I might approue  
This flowers force in stirring loue.  
Night and silence : who is heere ? 70  
Weedes of *Athens* he doth weare :  
This is he (my master said)  
Despised the *Athenian* maide :  
And heere the maiden sleeping found,  
On the danke and durty ground. 75 [151']  
Pretty foule, she durst not lye  
Neere this lacke-loue, this kill-curtessie.  
Churle, vpon thy eyes I throw

<sup>43</sup> good] god F ,]: F fake, F deare R <sup>44</sup> Ly F off, yet ; F do R  
lye F <sup>45</sup> fence, F sweete FR -cence. F <sup>46</sup> -rence. F is] it F ,]: F  
<sup>48</sup> can you] wee can F we can R ,]: F <sup>49</sup> interchained FR ,]: F  
<sup>51</sup> Then, F deny : F <sup>52</sup> do R <sup>53</sup> ,]: F <sup>54</sup> beshrewe F -ners, F <sup>55</sup> lyed F  
<sup>56</sup> curtesie, F <sup>57</sup> Ly F ,]: F <sup>58</sup> said,] said F <sup>59</sup> -eler F -ellor R  
<sup>60</sup> sweete F ,]: F <sup>61</sup> ,]om. FR sweete FR ende R <sup>62</sup> praier R  
<sup>63</sup> loialty R ,]: F <sup>64</sup> ,]: F <sup>65</sup> FR <sup>66</sup> *They sleepe.*]om. FR <sup>67</sup> ,]: F  
<sup>67</sup> finde] found F <sup>68</sup> One] On FR eies R <sup>70</sup> ,]: F <sup>72</sup> hee F faide F  
<sup>74</sup> here F -en, F <sup>75</sup> dirty FR <sup>76</sup> fowle F lye, F <sup>77</sup> lack-loue F lack loue R  
kil-curtessie F <sup>78</sup> throwe F

II. 2. 79-113.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 21

All the power this charme doth owe :  
When thou wak'st, let loue forbid 80  
Sleepe his feate on thy eye-lid.  
So awake when I am gone :  
For I muft now to *Oberon*. *Exit.*

*Enter Demetrius and Helena running.*

*Hel.* Stay, though thou kill me, sweete *Demetrius*.  
*De.* I charge thee hence, and do not haunt me thus. 85  
*Hel.* O wilt thou darkling leaue me ? do not fo.  
*De.* Stay on thy perill, I alone will goe.

*Exit Demetrius.*

*Hel.* O I am out of breath, in this fond chace,  
The more my prayer, the leffer is my grace,  
Happy is *Hermia*, wherefoere ſhe lies ; 90  
For ſhe hath bleſſed and attraſtiue eyes.  
How came her eyes ſo bright ? Not with ſalt teares.  
If ſo, my eyes are oftner waſht then hers.  
No, no, I am as vgly as a Beare ;  
For beaſts that meete me, runne away for feare, 95  
Therefore no maruaile, though *Demetrius*  
Doe as a monſter, flie my preſence thus.  
What wicked and diſſembling glaſſe of mine,  
Made me compare with *Hermias* ſphery eyne ?  
But who is here ? *Lyſander* on the ground ; 100  
Deade or aſleepe ? I ſee no bloud, no wound,  
*Lyſander*, if you liue, good fir awake.

*Lyf.* And run through fire I will for thy ſweet fake.  
Transparent *Helena*, nature her ſhewes art,  
That through thy boſome makes me ſee thy heart. 105  
Where is *Demetrius* ? oh how fit a word  
Is that vile name, to periſh on my ſword !

*Hel.* Do not ſay ſo *Lyſander*, ſay not ſo :  
What though he loue your *Hermia* ? Lord, what though ?  
Yet *Hermia* ſtill loues you ; then be content. 110

*Lyf.* Content with *Hermia* ? No, I do repent  
The tedious minutes I with her haue ſpent.  
Not *Hermia*, but *Helena* now I loue ;

<sup>80</sup>forbidde F <sup>81</sup>Sleepe, F feat, F feate, R eye lidde F <sup>82</sup>awake, F  
gon F <sup>84</sup>]; F mee F <sup>85</sup>doe F mee F <sup>86</sup>O, F doe F <sup>87</sup>Stay, F  
]; F *Exit Demetrius.*] om. FR <sup>88</sup>O, F chafe FR <sup>89</sup>praier R grace. FR  
<sup>90</sup>-pie F ]; F <sup>91</sup>-ed, F <sup>92</sup>eies R <sup>94</sup>no : I F ]; F <sup>95</sup>beaſtes F  
mee F away, F ]; F <sup>96</sup>-fore, F <sup>97</sup>Doe, F Do R fly F -ence, F  
<sup>98</sup>FR23 glaſſe, F <sup>99</sup>eyen ! F <sup>100</sup>But, F ?], R -der, F ground R  
]; FR <sup>101</sup>Dead, F Dead R a ſleepe F blood, FR ]; F <sup>102</sup>runne F  
fire, F ſweete F <sup>104</sup>-rant R her] om. FR arte FR <sup>105</sup>boſome, F  
<sup>107</sup>ſworde F <sup>108</sup>ſo, F ſo. F <sup>110</sup>]; F <sup>111</sup>No : I doe F <sup>112</sup>minutes, F  
<sup>113</sup>now] om. F ]; F



22 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [II. 2. 114-151.

Who will not change a Rauē for a Doue ?  
 The will of man is by his reafon fway'd : 115  
 And reafon faies you are the worthier Maide.  
 Things growing are not ripe vntill their feafon ;  
 So I being yong, till now ripe not to reafon,  
 And touching now the point of humane skill,  
 Reafon becomes the Marfhall to my will, 120  
 And leades me to your eyes, where I orelooke  
 Loues ftories, written in Loues richeft booke.

*Hel.* Wherefore was I to this keene mockery borne ?  
 When at your hands did I deferue this fcorne ?  
 Ift not enough, ift not enough, yong man, 125  
 That I did neuer, no nor neuer can,  
 Deferue a fweete looke from *Demetrius* eye,  
 But you muft flout my infufficiency ?  
 Good troth you do me wrong (good-footh you do)  
 In fuch difdainfull manner, me to wooe. 130  
 But fare you well ; perforce I muft confefse,  
 I thought you Lord of more true gentleneffe.  
 Oh, that a Lady of one man refus'd,  
 Should of another therefore be abus'd. *Exit.*

*Lyf.* She fees not *Hermia* : *Hermia* fleeps thou there, 135  
 And neuer maift thou come *Lyfander* neere ;  
 For as a furreit of the fweeteft things [151<sup>2</sup>]  
 The deepeft loathing to the ftomacke brings :  
 Or as the heresies that men do leaue,  
 Are hated moft of thofe that did deceiue : 140  
 So thou, my furreit, and my heresie,  
 Of all be hated ; but the moft of me ;  
 And all my powers addrefse your loue and might,  
 To honour *Helen*, and to be her Knight. *Exit.*

*Her.* Helpe me *Lyfander*, helpe me ; do thy beft 145  
 To plucke this crawling ferpent from my brest.  
 Aye me, for pittie ; what a dreame was here ?  
*Lyfander* looke, how I do quake with feare :  
 Me-thought a ferpent eate my heart away,  
 And yet fat fmiling at his cruell prey. 150  
*Lyfander*, what remou'd ? *Lyfander*, Lord,

115 fwa'd FR 116 maid R 117 ripe, F ;]: F 118 I, F young FR  
 ], F 119 now, F 121 leads FR mee F ,]; F 124 When, F hands, F  
 125 young FR 128 -cency R 129 doe mee F good foth F doe F  
 130 mee F 131 But, F ;]: F perforce, F 133 FR24 O F Ladie, F  
 134 Should, of another, F .]! F 135 :]. F -mia, FR 136 ;]. F 137 For, F  
 fuffet FR 138 -ing, F brings F ;]: R 139 Or, F -fies, F doe F  
 140 that] they FR 141 fuffet FR 142 bee F moft, of mee : F 145 mee F  
 mee : F 146 pluck F -pent, F 147 Ay mee F -tie. F 148 doe F :]. F  
 149 Me thought F 150 yet] you FR fate F pray F 151 ,]om. F what,  
 remou'd F

What, out of hearing, gone? No found, no word?  
 Alacke where are you? speake and if you heare:  
 Speake of all loues; I found almost with feare.  
 No, then I well perceiue you are not nye,  
 Either death or you Ile finde immediately. 155  
Exit.

*Actus Tertius.*

*Enter the Clownes.*

*Bot.* Are we all met?  
*Quin.* Pat, pat, and here's a maruailous conuenient  
 place for our rehearfall. This greene plot shall be our  
 stage, this hauthorne brake our tyring house, and we will  
 do it in action, as we will do it before the Duke. 5  
*Bot.* *Peter quince?*  
*Peter.* What saist thou, bully *Bottome*?  
*Bot.* There are things in this Comedy of *Piramus* and  
*Thisby*, that will neuer please. First, *Piramus* must draw a  
 sword to kill himselfe; which the Ladies cannot abide. 10  
 How anfwere you that?  
*Snout.* Berlaken, a parlous feare.  
*Star.* I beleue we must leaue the killing out, when  
 all is done.  
*Bot.* Not a whit, I haue a deuice to make all well. 15  
 Write me a Prologue, and let the Prologue seeme to say,  
 we will do no harme with our swords, and that *Pyramus*  
 is not kill'd indeede: and for the more better assurance,  
 tell them, that I *Piramus* am not *Piramus*, but *Bottome* the  
 Weauer; this will put them out of feare. 20  
*Quin.* Well, we will haue such a Prologue, and it shall  
 be written in eight and fixe.  
*Bot.* No, make it two more, let it be written in eight  
 and eight.  
*Snout.* Will not the Ladies be afear'd of the Lyon? 25  
*Star.* I feare it, I promise you.

<sup>152</sup> gon F <sup>153</sup> Speake, F :]; FR <sup>154</sup> Speake, F :]; F; R found]  
 swoune F <sup>155</sup> fround R <sup>156</sup> perceiue, F ny: F <sup>157</sup> Eyther R death, or  
 you, F *Actus Tertius.*] om. FR <sup>1</sup> wee F <sup>2</sup> Pat, pat: F heres FR  
 maruailles F <sup>3</sup> place, F <sup>4</sup> wee F <sup>5</sup> doe FR wee F <sup>6</sup> doe F <sup>7</sup> *Peeter* F  
<sup>8</sup> faiest F bully, *Bottom* F <sup>9</sup> -edy, F *Pyr.* F <sup>10</sup> *Pyr.* F <sup>11</sup> *sworde*, F  
 Ladies R <sup>12</sup> FR <sup>13</sup> anwer R <sup>14</sup> -kin F <sup>15</sup> beleue, F -ling, F <sup>16</sup> :]; F  
 deuise F <sup>17</sup> say; F <sup>18</sup> wee R wil F harme, F <sup>19</sup> kild FR indeed R  
<sup>20</sup> tel F <sup>21</sup> om. R *Pyr.* F *Pyr.* F *-tom* F <sup>22</sup> :]; F <sup>23</sup> Well: wee F  
<sup>24</sup> fix F <sup>25</sup> :]; F <sup>26</sup> :]; F <sup>27</sup> afear'd FR

*Bot.* Masters, you ought to confider with your felues, to bring in (God fhield vs) a Lyon among Ladies, is a moft dreadfull thing. For there is not a more fearefull wilde foule then your Lyon liuing: and wee ought to looke 30 to it.

*Snout.* Therefore another Prologue muft tell he is not a Lyon.

*Bot.* Nay, you muft name his name, and halfe his face muft be feene through the Lyons necke, and he himfelfe 35 muft fpeake through, faying thus, or to the fame defect; Ladies, or faire Ladies, I would with you, or I would request you, or I would entreat you, not to feare, not to [152<sup>1</sup>] tremble: my life for yours. If you thinke I come hither as a Lyon, it were pittie of my life. No, I am no fuch 40 thing, I am a man as other men are; and there indeed let him name his name, and tell him plainly hee is *Snug* the ioyner.

*Quin.* Well, it fhall be fo; but there is two hard things, that is, to bring the Moone-light into a chamber: for you know, *Piramus* and *Thisby* meete by Moone-light. 45

*Sn.* Doth the Moone fhine that night wee play our play?

*Bot.* A Calender, a Calender, looke in the Almanack, 50 finde out Moone-fhine, finde out Moone-fhine.

*Enter Pucke.*

*Quin.* Yes, it doth fhine that night.

*Bot.* Why then may you leaue a cafement of the great chamber window (where we play) open, and the Moone may fhine in at the cafement. 55

*Quin.* I, or elfe one muft come in with a bufh of thorns and a lanthorne, and fay he comes to diffigure, or to pre- fent the perfon of Moone-fhine. Then there is another thing, we muft haue a wall in the great Chamber; for *Pi- ramus* and *Thisby* (faies the fto-ry) did talke through the 60 chinke of a wall.

*Sn.* You can neuer bring in a wall. What fay you *Bottome*?

<sup>27</sup> felfe FR <sup>28</sup> fhield F <sup>30</sup> fowle R we FR <sup>31</sup> toote. F <sup>32</sup> Therefore, F tel, F <sup>33</sup> Lion F <sup>34</sup> Nay; F <sup>35</sup> Lions F hee R <sup>36</sup> defect R <sup>38</sup> wold intreat F <sup>39</sup> hether R <sup>40</sup> tie F No: F <sup>41</sup> ]; F ]; F indeed, F <sup>42</sup> tell him] tell them FR plainly F he FR *Snugge*, F <sup>44</sup> ]; F ]; F <sup>45</sup> things: F <sup>46</sup> *Pyr*- F <sup>48</sup> fhine, that night, F we FR <sup>51</sup> FR <sup>26</sup> -der: looke F -ack: F <sup>51</sup> Mooneshine. R *Enter Pucke.* om. FR <sup>52</sup> Yes: F <sup>53</sup> *Bot.*] *Cet.* F then, F <sup>54</sup> ]; F <sup>56</sup> I: or els, F in, F thorns, FR <sup>57</sup> lantern F <sup>58</sup> Then, F <sup>59</sup> ]; F wal F ]; F *Pyr*- F <sup>62</sup> wal F <sup>63</sup> -tom F

*Bot.* Some man or other muſt preſent wall, and let him haue ſome Plaſter, or ſome Lome, or ſome rough caſt about him, to ſignifie wall; or let him hold his fingers thus; and through that cranny, ſhall *Piramus* and *Thisby* whiſper. 65

*Quin.* If that may be, then all is well. Come, ſit downe euery mothers ſonne, and rehearſe your parts. *Piramus*, you begin; when you haue ſpoken your ſpeech, enter into that Brake, and ſo euery one according to his cue. 70

*Enter Robin.*

*Rob.* What hempen home-ſpuns haue we ſwaggering here,  
So neere the Cradle of the Faerie Queene?  
What, a Play toward? Ile be an auditor, 75  
An Actor too perhaps, if I ſee cauſe.

*Quin.* Speake *Piramus*: *Thisby* ſtand forth.

*Pir.* *Thisby*, the flowers of odious fauours ſweete.

*Quin.* Odours, odours. 80

*Pir.* Odours fauours ſweete,

So hath thy breath, my deareſt *Thisby* deare.

But harke, a voyce: ſtay thou but here a while,

And by and by I will to thee appeare. *Exit. Pir.*

*Puck.* A ſtranger *Piramus*, then ere plaid here. 85

*Thyf.* Muſt I ſpeake now?

*Pet.* I marry muſt you. For you muſt vnderſtand he goes but to ſee a noyſe that he heard, and is to come againe.

*Thyf.* Moſt radiant *Piramus*, moſt Lilly white of hue, 90  
Of colour like the red roſe on triumphant bryer,  
Moſt brisky Iuuenall, and eke moſt louely Iew,  
As true as trueſt horſe, that yet would neuer tyre,  
Ile meete thee *Piramus*, at *Ninnies* toombe.

*Pet.* *Ninus* toombe man: why, you muſt not ſpeake 95  
that yet; that you anſwere to *Piramus*: you ſpeake all  
your part at once, cues and all. *Piramus* enter, your cue is paſt; it is neuer tyre.

<sup>64</sup> ,]: F <sup>65</sup> ſom lome F <sup>66</sup> caſt, F holde F <sup>67</sup> ,]: F crany F *Pyr.* F  
<sup>70</sup> reherſe F <sup>71</sup> *Pyr.* F beginne: F <sup>74</sup> homeſpunnes F ſwaggring FR  
<sup>75</sup> Fairy FR <sup>77</sup> to F -happes F <sup>78</sup> *Pyr.* F ,]: R *Thy/by* F <sup>79</sup> ,]om. F  
faours F <sup>80</sup> Odours, odorous. FR <sup>81</sup> faours F ,]: F <sup>83</sup> voice F  
heere FR <sup>84</sup> *Pir.*]om. FR <sup>85</sup> *Puck.*] *Quin.* FR *Pyr.* F played heere F  
<sup>87</sup> FR<sup>27</sup> *Pet.*] *Quin.* F -ſtād, F <sup>88</sup> noyſe, F <sup>90</sup> *Pyr.* F lillie F hewe F  
<sup>91</sup> redroſe, F <sup>92</sup> eeke F Iewe F <sup>94</sup> *Pyr.* F toombe F <sup>95</sup> *Pet.*] *Quin.* F  
toombe, man. F ,]: F om. R ſpeake/That F <sup>96</sup> ,]: F anſwer R  
*Pyramus.* F ſpeake/Al F <sup>97</sup> cues, and, F al R *Pyramus.* F ,]: F  
<sup>98</sup> ,]: F is; F tire F

*Thyf.* O, as true as truest horfe, that yet would neuer tyre :

*Pir.* If I were faire, *Thisby* I were onely thine. 100 [152<sup>2</sup>]

*Pet.* O monftrous. O strange. We are hanted ; pray mafters, flye mafters, helpe.

*The Clownes all Exit.*

*Puk.* Ile follow you, Ile leade you about a Round,  
Through bogge, through bufh, through brake, through  
Sometime a horfe Ile be, fometime a hound : (bryer, 105  
A hogge, a headleffe beare, fometime a fire,  
And neigh, and barke, and grunt, and rore, and burne,  
Like horfe, hound, hog, beare, fire, at euery turne. *Exit.*

*Enter Piramus with the Affe head.*

*Bot.* Why do they run away ? This is a knauery of them to make me afeard. *Enter Snowt.* 110

*Sn.* O *Bottom*, thou art chang'd ; What doe I fee on thee ?

*Bot.* What do you fee ? You fee an Affe-head of your owne, do you ?

*Enter Peter Quince.*

*Pet.* Bleffe thee *Bottom*, bleffe thee ; thou art tranfla- 115  
ted. *Exit.*

*Bot.* I fee their knauery ; this is to make an affe of me, to fright me if they could ; but I will not ftirre from this place, do what they can. I will walke vp and downe here, and I will fing that they fhall heare I am not a- 120  
fraid.

The Woofell cocke, fo blacke of hew,

With Orenge-tawny bill.

The Throfile, with his note fo true,

The Wren and little quill. 125

*Tyta.* What Angell wakes me from my flowry bed ?

*Bot.* The Finch, the Sparrow, and the Larke,

The plainfong Cuckow gray ;

Whofe note full many a man doth marke,

And dares not anfwere, nay. 130

99 :]. FR 100 *Thyfby*, F 101 *Pet.*] *Quin.* F .:] F .:] F haunted FR  
:] F 102 ,:] F fly F ,:] F *The Clownes all exit.*] *om.* FR 108 *Puk.*  
*Rob.* FR you : Ile F 104 bryer,] bryer : F bryer R 106 some- FR :], FR  
108 headleffe F fier F 108 hogge F *Enter Piramus with the Affe head.*  
*om.* FR 109 doe F runne F 110 mee F *Snowte* F 111 chaung'd. F  
do FR 113 doe F Affe head FR 114 own R .:] FR *Peter*] *om.* F  
115 *Pet.*] *Quin.* F *-tom* F :], F 117 :]. F mee F 118 me, F :]: F wil F  
fir R 120 heere FR afraide F 122 cock F hewe F 123 Orange  
tawny bill, FR 124 FR 28 125 Wren, F and] with FR 127 Fynch F  
-rowe F 128 :]: F 129 note, F 130 anfwere R

III. 1. 131-163.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 27

For indeede, who would fet his wit to so foolish a bird?  
Who would giue a bird the lye, though he cry Cuckow,  
neuer so?

*Tyta.* I pray thee gentle mortall, sing againe,  
Mine eare is much enamored of thy note; 135  
On the first view to say, to sweare I loue thee.  
So is mine eye enthralled to thy shape,  
And thy faire vertues force (perforce) doth moue me.

*Bot.* Me-thinkes mistresse, you should haue little  
reason for that: and yet to say the truth, reason and 140  
loue keepe little company together, now-adayes.  
The more the pittie, that some honest neighbours will  
not make them friends. Nay, I can gleeke vpon occa-  
sion.

*Tyta.* Thou art as wise, as thou art beautiful. 145

*Bot.* Not so neither: but if I had wit enough to get  
out of this wood, I haue enough to serue mine owne  
turne.

*Tyta.* Out of this wood, do not desire to goe,  
Thou shalt remaine here, whether thou wilt or no. 150  
I am a spirit of no common rate:  
The Summer still doth tend vpon my state,  
And I doe loue thee; therefore goe with me,  
Ile giue thee Fairies to attend on thee;  
And they shall fetch thee Iewels from the deepe, 155  
And sing, while thou on pressed flowers dost sleepe:  
And I will purge thy mortall grosseneffe so,  
That thou shalt like an airie spirit go.

*Enter Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, Mustard-  
seede, and foure Fairies.*

*Fai.* Ready; and I, and I, and I, Where shall we go?

*Tita.* Be kinde and curteous to this Gentleman, 160 [151]  
Hop in his walkes, and gambole in his eies,  
Feede him with Apricocks, and Dewberries,  
With purple Grapes, greene Figs, and Mulberries,

181 indeed R birde F 182 ly F hee F 184 thee, F againe. F  
185 Myne F enamoured F ;]: F 186-8 So is mine eye enthralled to thy  
shape, / And thy faire vertues force (perforce) doth moue me, / On the first  
viewe to say, to sweare, I loue thee. F 188 ], R 189 Mee thinks F Me-  
thinks R 140 :]. F yet, F 141 now a daies F now adayes R 142-ty FR  
143 ],om. FR gleeke, F 147 owne] owe F 149 doe F ,]: F 151 spirit, F  
152 Sommer, F Sommer R still, F 153 do R ;]: F go R mee. F  
154 ;]: F 155 Iewels, F 156 thou, F flowers, F 158 shalt, F ayery F  
ayry R. spirit, goe F *Enter Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, Mustard-  
seede, and foure Fairies.* *Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, and Mustard-seede?*  
*Enter foure Fairies.* F *Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, and Mustard-seed.*  
*Enter foure Fairies.* R 159 FR 29 *Fai.* Fairies. F Readie: F I, Where]  
I. Where FR goe F 161 eyes F 163 figges F

The honie-bags steale from the humble Bees,  
 And for night-tapers crop their waxen thighes, 165  
 And light them at the fierie-Glow-wormes eyes,  
 To haue my loue to bed, and to arife:  
 And plucke the wings from painted Butterflies,  
 To fan the Moone-beames from his sleeping eies.  
 Nod to him Elues, and doe him curtesies. 170

1. *Fai.* Haile mortall, haile.

2. *Fai.* Haile.

3. *Fai.* Haile.

*Bot.* I cry your worships mercy hartily; I befeech  
 your worships name. 175

*Cob. Cobweb.*

*Bot.* I shall desire you of more acquaintance, good  
 Master *Cobweb*: if I cut my finger, I shall make bold  
 with you.

Your name honest Gentleman? 180

*Peaf. Peafe blossome.*

*Bot.* I pray you commend mee to mistresse *Squash*,  
 your mother, and to master *Peascod* your father. Good  
 master *Peafe-blossome*, I shal desire of you more acquain-  
 tance to. Your name I befeech you sir? 185

*Musf. Mustard-seede.*

*Peaf. Peafe-blossome.*

*Bot.* Good master *Mustard seede*, I know your pati-  
 ence well: that fame cowardly gyant-like Oxe-beefe  
 hath deuoured many a gentleman of your house. I pro- 190  
 mise you, your kindred hath made my eyes water ere  
 now. I desire you more acquaintance, good Master  
*Mustard-seede.*

*Tita.* Come waite vpon him, lead him to my bower.  
 The Moone me-thinks, lookes with a watrie eie, 195  
 And when she weepes, weepe euerie little flower,  
 Lamenting some enforced chastitie.

Tye vp my louers tongue, bring him silently. *Exit.*

*Enter King of Pharies, solus.* [III. 2.

*Ob.* I wonder if *Titania* be awak't;

<sup>164</sup> honie bagges F honie bags R <sup>165</sup> night tapers, FR <sup>166</sup> croppe F  
<sup>166</sup> fierie-] fiery FR <sup>167</sup> Glow- F <sup>168</sup> eies R <sup>167</sup> bedde F :], F <sup>168</sup> om. R <sup>168</sup> pluck F  
 wings, F <sup>169</sup> fanne FR <sup>170</sup> eyes, FR <sup>170</sup> do R <sup>174</sup> -cy, F :], F <sup>175</sup> -shippes F  
<sup>176</sup> -webbe F <sup>178</sup> bolde F <sup>181</sup> *Peafe-blossome* FR <sup>182</sup> me R <sup>183</sup> -cod, F  
<sup>184</sup> [shall FR of you] you of FR -tance, F <sup>186</sup> -]om. F <sup>187</sup> *Peaf. Peafe-*  
*blossome.*] om. FR <sup>188</sup> *Mustardseede* F <sup>189</sup> seed R <sup>189</sup> :], F <sup>190</sup> -ly, F <sup>191</sup> gyant-  
 like, Oxbeefe F <sup>190</sup> deuourd F <sup>191</sup> water, F <sup>193</sup> -]om. FR <sup>193</sup> -seed R  
<sup>194</sup> :], F <sup>194</sup> leade FR <sup>196</sup> Moone, me thinkes F <sup>197</sup> watry FR <sup>198</sup> eye: F  
<sup>196</sup> [hee F weepe] weepes F -ry FR <sup>197</sup> FR30 -ty R <sup>198</sup> Ty F <sup>198</sup> Fai-  
 ries FR *solus*] and Robin goodfellow FR good-fel- R

Then what it was that next came in her eye,  
Which she must dote on, in extremitie.

*Enter Pucke.*

Here comes my messenger : how now mad spirit,  
What night-rule now about this gaunted groue? 5

*Puck.* My Mistris with a monster is in loue,  
Neere to her clofe and consecrated bower,  
While she was in her dull and sleeping hower,  
A crew of patches, rude Mechanicals,  
That worke for bread vpon *Athenian* stals, 10  
Were met together to rehearse a Play,  
Intended for great *Thefeus* nuptiall day :  
The shallowest thick-skin of that barren fort,  
Who *Piramus* presented, in their sport,  
Forsooke his Scene, and entred in a brake, 15  
When I did him at this aduantage take,  
An Asses noll I fixed on his head.

Anon his *Thisbie* must be answered,  
And forth my Mimick comes : when they him spie,  
As Wilde-geese, that the creeping Fowler eye, 20  
Or ruffed-pated choughes, many in fort  
(Rising and cawing at the guns report)  
Seuer themfelues, and madly sweepe the skye :

So at his sight, away his fellows flye, [151<sup>2</sup>]  
And at our stampe, here ore and ore one fals ; 25  
He murther cries, and helpe from *Athens* calls.

Their sense thus weake, lost with their fears thus strong,  
Made senselesse things begin to do them wrong.  
For briars and thornes at their apparell snatch,  
Some sleeues, some hats, from yeelders all things catch, 30  
I led them on in this distracted feare,

And left sweete *Piramus* translated there :  
When in that moment (so it came to passe)  
*Tytania* waked, and straightway lou'd an Ass.

*Ob.* This fals out better then I could deuise : 35  
But hast thou yet lacht the *Athenians* eyes,  
With the loue iuyce, as I did bid thee doe ?

<sup>2</sup> was, F <sup>3</sup> extream- F -ty R *Enter Pucke.* om. FR <sup>4</sup> :. F now, F  
;] F <sup>5</sup> -] om. F gaunted] haunted FR <sup>6</sup> mistresse FR <sup>7</sup> :. F <sup>8</sup> dull, F  
<sup>9</sup> Mechan- FR <sup>10</sup> bread, FR stales FR <sup>11</sup> thickskinne, F barraine F  
<sup>12</sup> Pyr- F <sup>13</sup> :. F <sup>14</sup> Minnick F Minnock R :. F spy FR ;] F  
<sup>15</sup> wilde geese FR Fou- F <sup>16</sup> ruffet pated F ruffed pated R <sup>17</sup> Ryling,  
and cawing, F gunnes F <sup>18</sup> sky FR <sup>19</sup> So, F fly F <sup>20</sup> ore, one F  
falles FR ;] F <sup>21</sup> cries FR <sup>22</sup> sense, F feares, F feares R <sup>23</sup> doe F  
<sup>24</sup> For, briars F thornes, F -ell, F ;] F <sup>25</sup> hats ; F -ers, F ;] F  
<sup>26</sup> on, F <sup>27</sup> Pyr- F <sup>28</sup> FR31 <sup>29</sup> wak't F straight way F <sup>30</sup> falles FR  
-ter, F ;] F <sup>31</sup> lacht F <sup>32</sup> iuyce F do R



*Rob.* I tooke him sleeping (that is finisht to)  
And the *Athenian* woman by his side,  
That when he wak't, of force she must be eyde. 40

*Enter Demetrius and Hermia.*

*Ob.* Stand close, this is the same *Athenian*.

*Rob.* This is the woman, but not this the man.

*Dem.* O why rebuke you him that loues you so?  
Lay breath so bitter on your bitter foe.

*Her.* Now I but chide, but I should vse thee worfe. 45  
For thou (I feare) hast giuen me cause to curse,  
If thou hast flaine *Lyfander* in his sleepe,  
Being ore shooes in blood, plunge in the deepe, and kill  
me too :

The Sunne was not so true vnto the day, 50  
As he to me. Would he haue stollen away,  
From sleeping *Hermia*? Ile beleue as soone  
This whole earth may be bord, and that the Moone  
May through the Center creepe, and so displeafe  
Her brothers noonetide, with th' *Antipodes*. 55  
It cannot be but thou hast mured him,  
So should a muttherer looke, so dead, so grim.

*Dem.* So should the murderer looke, and so should I,  
Pierst through the heart with your stearne cruelty :  
Yet you the murderer looks as bright as cleare, 60  
As yonder *Venus* in her glimmering spheare.

*Her.* What's this to my *Lyfander*? where is he?  
Ah good *Demetrius*, wilt thou giue him me?

*Dem.* I'de rather giue his carkasse to my hounds.

*Her.* Out dog, out cur, thou driu'st me past the bounds 65  
Of maidens patience. Hast thou flaine him then?  
Henceforth be neuer numbred among men.  
Oh, once tell true, euen for my sake,  
Durst thou a lookt vpon him, being awake?  
And hast thou kill'd him sleeping? O braue tutch : 70  
Could not a worrne, an Adder do so much?  
An Adder did it : for with doubler tongue  
Then thine (thou serpent) neuer Adder stung.

*Dem.* You spend your passion on a mispri'sd mood,

<sup>39</sup> woman, F ,]; F <sup>40</sup> ey'd F <sup>41</sup>,]; F <sup>42</sup>,]; F <sup>43</sup> O, F him, F <sup>44</sup> bit-  
ter, on F <sup>45</sup>,]; F <sup>46</sup>,]. FR <sup>47</sup> der, F ,]; F <sup>48</sup> blood F <sup>49</sup> mee to. F  
to, R <sup>51</sup> hee to mee F hee F <sup>52</sup> Frow F beleuee, as soone, F  
<sup>53</sup> bor'd FR <sup>54</sup> be, F ,]. F <sup>57</sup> murtherer F murderer R looke; F  
grimme F <sup>58</sup> murdered F murdered R <sup>59</sup> Pearst F heart, F sterne F  
;]. F <sup>60</sup> you, F murtherer, F looke as bright, FR cleere F <sup>61</sup> *Venus*, F  
<sup>62</sup> Whats F hee F <sup>63</sup> mee F <sup>64</sup> I'de] I had F Ide R carcassee F  
<sup>65</sup> curre FR ,]; F bonds R <sup>68</sup> FR32 O F true] true: tell true F sake: F  
<sup>69</sup> a] haue FR <sup>70</sup> kild FR him, F :]; F <sup>72</sup>,]. R <sup>73</sup> thyne F <sup>74</sup> spende F  
-fon, F -pris'd F -pris'd R ,]; F

III. 2. 75-112.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 31

I am not guiltie of *Lyfanders* blood : 75  
Nor is he dead for ought that I can tell.

*Her.* I pray thee tell me then that he is well.

*Dem.* And if I could, what should I get therefore ?

*Her.* A priuiledge, neuer to see me more ;  
And from thy hated prefence part I : see me no more 80  
Whether he be dead or no. *Exit.*

*Dem.* There is no following her in this fierce vaine,  
Here therefore for a while I will remaine.  
So sorrowes heauinesse doth heauier grow :  
For debt that bankrout slip doth forrow owe, 85  
Which now in some slight meafure it will pay,  
If for his tender here I make some stay. *Lie downe.* [154']

*Ob.* What hast thou done ? Thou hast mistaken quite  
And laid the loue iuyce on some true loutes fight :  
Of thy misprifion, must perforce ensue 90  
Some true loue turn'd, and not a false turn'd true.

*Rob.* Then fate ore-rules, that one man holding troth,  
A million faile, confounding oath on oath.

*Ob.* About the wood, goe swifter then the winde,  
And *Helena* of *Athens* looke thou finde. 95  
All fancy sicke she is, and pale of cheere,  
With fighes of loue, that costs the fresh blood deare.  
By some illusion see thou bring her heere,  
He charme his eyes against she doth appeare.

*Robin.* I go, I go, looke how I goe, 100  
Swifter then arrow from the *Tartars* bowe. *Exit.*

*Ob.* Flower of this purple die,  
Hit with *Cupids* archery,  
Sinke in apple of his eye,  
When his loue he doth espie, 105  
Let her shine as gloriously  
As the *Venus* of the sky.  
When thou wak'ft if she be by,  
Beg of her for remedy.

*Enter Pucke.*

*Puck.* Captaine of our Fairy band, 110  
*Helena* is heere at hand,  
And the youth, mistooke by me,

<sup>75</sup>-ty FR bloode F blood R <sup>76</sup> deade, F dead, R <sup>77</sup> thee, F mee F  
then, FR <sup>79</sup> mee F ;] F , R <sup>80</sup> ;] R <sup>81</sup> more ; F more, R <sup>82</sup> ;] F  
<sup>83</sup> Heere FR -fore, F while, F <sup>84</sup> growe F ;] FR <sup>85</sup> flippe F ;] F  
<sup>86</sup> ;] F <sup>87</sup> heere R *Ly doune* F <sup>88</sup> quite, FR <sup>89</sup> laide R iuice F  
:] F <sup>91</sup> turnd F turnd FR <sup>92</sup> ;] om. F <sup>93</sup> is,] is F <sup>97</sup> blood F  
<sup>96</sup> here : F <sup>99</sup> eyes, F eies, R doth] doe F do R <sup>100</sup> I goe, I goe, F  
:] F <sup>101</sup> arrow, F *Exit.*] om. F <sup>102</sup> dy F <sup>103</sup> FR33 <sup>106</sup> espy FR  
<sup>108</sup> wak'ft, FR <sup>109</sup> Begge of her, F *Puck* F <sup>111</sup> hande F <sup>112</sup> mee F

32 *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 113-149.]

Pleading for a Louers fee.

Shall we their fond Pageant see?

Lord, what fooles these mortals be!

115

*Ob.* Stand aside: the noyfe they make,  
Will caufe *Demetrius* to awake.

*Puck.* Then will two at once wooe one,  
That must needs be sport alone:

And those things doe best please me,

120

That befall preposterously.

*Enter Lyfander and Helena.*

*Lyf.* Why should you think <sup>y</sup> I should wooe in scorn?  
Scorne and derision neuer comes in teares:

Looke when I vow I weepe; and vowes so borne,  
In their natiuity all truth appeares.

125

How can these things in me, seeme scorne to you?  
Bearing the badge of faith to proue them true.

*Hel.* You doe aduance your cunning more & more,  
When truth kills truth, O diuelish holy fray!

These vowes are *Hermias*. Will you giue her ore?

130

Weigh oath with oath, and you will nothing weigh.  
Your vowes to her, and me, (put in two scales)

Will euen weigh, and both as light as tales.

*Lyf.* I had no iudgement, when to her I swore.

*Hel.* Nor none in my minde, now you giue her ore.

135

*Lyf.* *Demetrius* loues her, and he loues not you. *Awa.*

*Dem.* O *Helen*, goddesse, nimph, perfect, diuine,

To what my, loue, shall I compare thine eyne!

Chrystall is muddy, O how ripe in show,

Thy lips, those kissing cherries, tempting grow!

140

That pure congealed white, high *Taurus* snow,

Fan'd with the Easterne winde, turnes to a crow,

When thou holdst vp thy hand. O let me kisse

This Princeesse of pure white, this seale of blisse.

*Hell.* O spight! O hell! I see you are all bent

145

To set against me, for your merriment:

If you were ciuill, and knew curtesie,

You would not doe me thus much iniury.

Can you not hate me, as I know you doe,

[154<sup>2</sup>]

114 wee F 115 bee F 116 :]. F noyfe, F 118 two, at once, F :]. F  
119 needes F :]. F 120 do FR mee F 121 prepostrously F -der, F  
122 think, F scorne F 123 Scorne, F -sion F come FR :]. F 124 vow, F  
:] F 125 -itie F 126 things, in mee F 127 prooue F 128 do R -ning,  
more, F 129 truth kills F 131 oath, with F waigh F 132 mee F  
]om. FR 133 :]. F 135 none, F 136 FR 34 :]. F *Awa.*] om. FR  
137 nymph, perfect diuine F 138 what, my loue FR eine R 139 :]. F  
O, F ripe, F shoue FR 140 lippes F growe F 141 coniealed F  
142 Fand F crowe F 143 O, F 145 fee, F are all] all are FR 146 mee F  
:] F 148 do R mee F 149 mee F do R

III. 2. 150-184.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 33

But you muft ioyne in foules to mocke me to ? 150

If you are men, as men you are in show,  
You would not vfe a gentle Lady fo ;  
To vow, and sweare, and superpraise my parts,  
When I am fure you hate me with your hearts.  
You both are Riuals, and loue *Hermia* ; 155  
And now both Riuals to mocke *Helena*.

A trim exploit, a manly enterprize,  
To coniure teares vp in a poore maids eyes,  
With your derifion ; none of noble fort,  
Would fo offend a Virgin, and extort 160  
A poore foules patience, all to make you fport.

*Lyfa.* You are vnkind *Demetrius* ; be not fo,  
For you loue *Hermia* ; this you know I know ;  
And here with all good will, with all my heart,  
In *Hermias* loue I yeeld you vp my part ; 165  
And yours of *Helena*, to me bequeath,  
Whom I do loue, and will do to my death.

*Hel.* Neuer did mockers waft more idle breth.

*Dem.* *Lyfander*, keep thy *Hermia*, I will none :  
If ere I lou'd her, all that loue is gone. 170  
My heart to her, but as gueft-wife fo iourn'd,  
And now to *Helen* it is home return'd,  
There to remaine.

*Lyf.* It is not fo.

*De.* Disparage not the faith thou doft not know,  
Left to thy perill thou abide it deare. 175  
Looke where thy Loue comes, yonder is thy deare.

*Enter Hermia.*

*Her.* Dark night, that from the eye his function takes,  
The eare more quicke of apprehenfion makes,  
Wherein it doth impaire the feeing fenfe,  
Ir paies the hearing double recompence. 180  
Thou art not by mine eye, *Lyfander* found,  
Mine eare (I thanke it) brought me to that found.  
But why vnkindly didft thou leaue me fo ? (to go ?

*Lyfan.* Why fhould hee ftay whom Loue doth preffe

<sup>160</sup> ioyne, in foules, F mee F too R <sup>161</sup> are men] were men FR  
showe F <sup>162</sup> vowe F <sup>163</sup> fure, F mee F <sup>164</sup> ;] F <sup>165</sup> Riualles, F  
Riuals, R mock F <sup>166</sup> -prife F <sup>167</sup> vp, F maides FR <sup>168</sup> ;] om. F  
, R None, F <sup>169</sup> virgine FR <sup>170</sup> vnkinde, F vnkinde R ;] F ,] FR  
<sup>171</sup> -mia : F ;] F <sup>172</sup> heare, F heere R <sup>173</sup> yeelde F ;] F <sup>174</sup> mee F  
;] F <sup>175</sup> doe F to] till F <sup>176</sup> waste FR breath FR <sup>177</sup> keepe FR ,] F  
;] F <sup>178</sup> FR <sup>179</sup> gueftwife, F fo iourn'd FR ,] F <sup>180</sup> *Helen*, is it F  
return'd F <sup>181</sup> It is] *Helena*, it is F <sup>182</sup> faith, F ,] F <sup>183</sup> Leaf't FR  
-ill F aby F <sup>184</sup> ;] F <sup>185</sup> Darke FR eye, F <sup>186</sup> ,] F <sup>187</sup> It FR  
payes F <sup>188</sup> not, by myne F cie R <sup>189</sup> -der, found : F <sup>190</sup> eare, I thanke  
it, F that] thy FR <sup>191</sup> why, F -ly, F mee F <sup>192</sup> he ftay, FR

34 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 185-224.

*Her.* What loue could presse *Lyfander* from my side ? 185  
*Lyf.* *Lyfanders* loue (that would not let him bide)  
 Faire *Helena* ; who more engilds the night,  
 Then all yon fierie oes, and eies of light.  
 Why seek'st thou me ? Could not this make thee know,  
 The hate I bare thee, made me leaue thee so ? 190  
*Her.* You speake not as you thinke ; it cannot be.  
*Hel.* Loe, she is one of this confederacy,  
 Now I perceiue they haue conioyn'd all three,  
 To fashion this false sport in spight of me.  
 Iniurious *Hermia*, most vngratefull maid, 195  
 Haue you conspir'd, haue you with these contriu'd  
 To baite me, with this foule derision ?  
 Is all the counsell that we two haue shar'd,  
 The sisters vowes, the houres that we haue spent,  
 When wee haue chid the hasty footed time, 200  
 For parting vs ; O, is all forgot ?  
 All schooldaies friendship, child-hood innocence ?  
 We *Hermia*, like two Artificiall gods,  
 Haue with our needles, created both one flower,  
 Both on one sampler, sitting on one cushion, 205  
 Both warbling of one song, both in one key ;  
 As if our hands, our sides, voices, and mindes  
 Had beene incorporate. So we grew together,  
 Like to a double cherry, seeming parted,  
 But yet a vnion in partition, 210  
 Two louely berries molded on one stem, [155']  
 So with two seeming bodies, but one heart,  
 Two of the first life coats in Heraldry,  
 Due but to one and crowned with one creft.  
 And will you rent our ancient loue afunder, 215  
 To ioyne with men in scorning your poore friend ?  
 It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly.  
 Our sexe as well as I, may chide you for it,  
 Though I alone doe feele the iniurie.  
*Her.* I am amazed at your passionate words, 220  
 I scorne you not ; It seemes that you scorne me.  
*Hel.* Haue you not set *Lyfander*, as in scorne  
 To follow me, and praise my eies and face ?  
 And made your other loue, *Demetrius*

185 -der, F 187 ;]; F ,]om. F 188 -ry FR eyes F 190 mee F 191 ;]; F  
 bee F 192 Lo : F ,]. F 193 -ceiue, FR -ioynd FR 194 sport, FR mee F  
 195 maide FR 197 mee F 199 howers F 200 we FR -tie F 202 schooldaies F  
 schoole-daies R -shippe F -]om. F 203 Wee, F 204 FR 36 207 voyces F  
 208 bin FR wee grewe F -ted ; F 210 a] an FR 211 moulded FR  
 stemme FR ,]; F 214 to one, FR creaft F 215 aun- F 216 men, F  
 217 tis FR 218 [ex, F it ; F 219 do R fele F -ry FR 220 passionate]  
 om. FR ,]; F 221 ;]. F mee F 222 [corne, F 223 mee F eyes F

III. 2. 225-259.] *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* 35

(Who euen but now did spurne me with his foote) 225  
 To call me goddesse, nimph, diuine, and rare,  
 Precious, celestiall? Wherefore speakes he this  
 To her he hates? And wherefore doth *Lyfander*  
 Denie your loue (so rich within his soule)  
 And tender me (forsooth) affection, 230  
 But by your setting on, by your consent?  
 What though I be not so in grace as you,  
 So hung vpon with loue, so fortunate?  
 (But miserable most, to loue vnlo'u'd)  
 This you should pittie, rather then despise. 235  
*Her.* I vnderstand not what you meane by this.  
*Hel.* I, doe, perseuer, counterfeit sad lookes,  
 Make mouthes vpon me when I turne my backe,  
 Winke each at other, hold the sweete iest vp:  
 This sport well carried, shall be chronicled. 240  
 If you haue any pittie, grace, or manners,  
 You would not make me such an argument:  
 But fare ye well, 'tis partly mine owne fault,  
 Which death or absence soone shall remedie.  
*Lyf.* Stay gentle *Helena*, heare my excuse, 245  
 My loue, my life, my soule, faire *Helena*.  
*Hel.* O excellent!  
*Her.* Sweete, do not scorne her so.  
*Dem.* If she cannot entreate, I can compell.  
*Lyf.* Thou canst compell, no more then she entreate.  
 Thy threats haue no more strength then her weak praise. 250  
*Helen*, I loue thee, by my life I doe;  
 I sweare by that which I will lose for thee,  
 To proue him false, that saies I loue thee not.  
*Dem.* I say, I loue thee more then he can do.  
*Lyf.* If thou say so, with-draw and proue it too. 255  
*Dem.* Quick, come.  
*Her.* *Lyfander*, whereto tends all this?  
*Lyf.* Away, you *Ethiope*.  
*Dem.* No, no, Sir, seeme to breake loose;  
 Take on as you would follow,  
 But yet come not: you are a tame man, go.

225 mee F 226 mee F nymph F 227 Pretious F ,]om. F this, F  
 228 wherefore F 229 -ny FR 230 mee F 232 What, F 235 -ty R 236 not, F  
 237 I doe, F do R -fait F ,]: F 238 mee, F back: F 239 FR37  
 fweete F ieast FR :]. F 240 bee F 241 -ty FR 242 mee F :]. FR  
 243 faryewell R ,]: F tis FR mine]my F ,]: F 244 death, F -dy FR  
 245 Stay, F -na: F 247 doe F 248 entreat F 249 ,]om. F more, F  
 intreat F 250 weake FR 251 ,]: F 252 loose F ,]: F 253 prooue F  
 256 withdrawe, F prooue F to FR 255 Quick come F 257 -op F No,  
 no: heele/Seeme to breake loose: take on as you would follow;/ F  
 Sir,] hee'l R 259 :]. F

36 *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 260–294.

*Lyf.* Hang off thou cat, thou bur ; vile thing let loofe, 260  
Or I will shake thee from me like a serpent.

*Her.* Why are you growne fo rude ?  
What change is this fweete Loue ?

*Lyf.* Thy loue ? out tawny *Tartar*, out ;  
Out loathed medicine ; O hated poifon hence.

*Her.* Do you not ieft ? 265

*Hel.* Yes footh, and fo do you.

*Lyf.* *Demetrius* : I will keepe my word with thee.

*Dem.* I would I had your bond : for I perceiue  
A weake bond holds you ; Ile not truft your word.

*Lyf.* What, fhould I hurt her, ftrike her, kill her dead ?  
Although I hate her, Ile not harme her fo. 270

*Her.* What, can you do me greater harme then hate ?  
Hate me, wherefore ? O me, what newes my Loue ? [155<sup>r</sup>]  
Am not I *Hermia* ? Are not you *Lyfander* ?

I am as faire now, as I was ere while.  
Since night you lou'd me ; yet fince night you left me. 275  
Why then you left me (O the gods forbid  
In earneft, fhall I fay ?

*Lyf.* I, by my life ;  
And neuer did defire to fee thee more.  
Therefore be out of hope, of queftion, of doubt ;  
Be certaine, nothing truer : 'tis no ieft, 280  
That I doe hate thee, and loue *Helena*.

*Her.* O me, you iugler, you canker bloffome,  
You theefe of loue ; What, haue you come by night,  
And ftolne my loues heart from him ?

*Hel.* Fine yfaith :  
Haue you no modefty, no maiden fhame, 285  
No touch of bashfulneffe ? What, will you teare  
Impatient answers from my gentle tongue ?  
Fie, fie, you counterfeit, you puppet, you.

*Her.* Puppet ? why fo ? I, that way goes the game.  
Now I perceiue that fhe hath made compare 290  
Betweene our ftatures, fhe hath vrg'd her height,  
And with her perfonage, her tall perfonage,  
Her height (forfooth) fhe hath preuail'd with him.  
And are you growne fo high in his efteeame,

260 of F ;]: F ;]: F 261 mee, F 262 rude ? What change is this, / F  
this, R 263 ;]: F 264 medicine : F poifon] potion F 265 Doe F ieaft FR  
;]: F doe F 266 ;]: FR word, F 267 ;]: F -ceiue, FR 268 ;]: F  
269 FR 38 What ? F 271 What ? FR harme, F 272 Hate mee F  
newes, F 276 night, F mee F night, F mee F 276 then, F mee F  
-bid) FR 277 ;]: F 279 Thefore F ;]: F 280 ;]: F ; R ;]: R tis no  
ieaft FR 281 do R 282 mee F iuggler FR 283 ;]: F 284 heart, F  
Fine, I faith. F ifaith. R 287 anfweres, F 288 Fy, fy F -fait F -fet R  
290 -pare, F 292 tall par- R 293 -uaild FR

III. 2. 295-330.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 37

Because I am so dwarfish, and so low? 295  
How low am I, thou painted May-pole? Speake,  
How low am I? I am not yet so low,  
But that my nailes can reach vnto thine eyes.

*Hel.* I pray you though you mocke me, gentlemen,  
Let her not hurt me; I was neuer curst: 300  
I haue no gift at all in shrewishnesse;  
I am a right maide for my cowardize;  
Let her not strike me: you perhaps may thinke,  
Because she is something lower then my selfe,  
That I can match her. 305

*Her.* Lower? harke againe.

*Hel.* Good *Hermia*, do not be so bitter with me,  
I euermore did loue you *Hermia*,  
Did euer keepe your counsels, neuer wronged you,  
Saue that in loue vnto *Demetrius*,  
I told him of your stealth vnto this wood. 310  
He followed you, for loue I followed him,  
But he hath chid me hence, and threatned me  
To strike me, spurne me, nay to kill me too;  
And now, so you will let me quiet go,  
To *Athens* will I beare my folly backe, 315  
And follow you no further. Let me go.  
You see how simple, and how fond I am.

*Her.* Why get you gone: who ist that hinders you?

*Hel.* A foolish heart, that I leaue here behinde.

*Her.* What, with *Lyfander*? 320

*Her.* With *Demetrius*.

*Lyf.* Be not afraid, she shall not harme thee *Helena*.

*Dem.* No fir, she shall not, though you take her part.

*Hel.* O when she's angry, she is keene and shrewd,  
She was a vixen when she went to schoole,  
And though she be but little, she is fierce. 325

*Her.* Little againe? Nothing but low and little?  
Why will you suffer her to flout me thus?  
Let me come to her.

*Lyf.* Get you gone you dwarfe,  
You *minimus*, of hindring knot-graffe made,  
You bead, you acorne.

*Dem.* You are too officious, 330

<sup>295</sup>,]om. FR lowe F <sup>296</sup>lowe F Speake: F <sup>297</sup>lowe F lowe F  
<sup>299</sup> pray you, F gentleman F <sup>300</sup>;] F <sup>301</sup>;] FR <sup>302</sup>FR39 maid, F  
maid R ;] F <sup>303</sup>mee. F -haps, F <sup>304</sup>mee F <sup>305</sup>wrongd F ;] F  
<sup>306</sup>loue, F <sup>307</sup>tould F <sup>308</sup>;] F loue, F <sup>309</sup>;] F <sup>310</sup>mee F <sup>311</sup>mee F  
mee; F mee to. F to R <sup>312</sup>goe FR <sup>313</sup>goe F <sup>314</sup>Why? F gon. F  
<sup>315</sup>heere R behind F <sup>316</sup>*Hel.* With FR <sup>317</sup>;] F <sup>318</sup>fir: F <sup>319</sup>O, F  
she's] she is F she's R shrewd. F <sup>320</sup>-en, F ;] F <sup>321</sup>but] hut F  
<sup>322</sup>floute F <sup>323</sup>gon, F ;] F <sup>324</sup>knot graffe, F knot graffe R ;] F



38 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 331-363.]

In her behalfe that scornes your seruices.  
 Let her alone, speake not of *Helena*, [156<sup>1</sup>]  
 Take not her part. For if thou dost intend  
 Neuer so little shew of loue to her,  
 Thou shalt abide it. 335

*Lyf.* Now she holds me not,  
 Now follow if thou dar'st, to try whose right,  
 Of thine or mine is most in *Helena*.

*Dem.* Follow? Nay, Ile goe with thee cheeke by  
 iowle. *Exit Lyfander and Demetrius.*

*Her.* You Mistris, all this coyle is long of you.  
 Nay, goe not backe. 340

*Hel.* I will not trust you I,  
 Nor longer stay in your curst companie.  
 Your hands then mine, are quicker for a fray,  
 My legs are longer though to runne away.

*Enter Oberon and Pucke.*

*Ob.* This is thy negligence, still thou mistak'st,  
 Or else committ'st thy knaueries willingly. 345

*Puck.* Beleeue me, King of shadowes, I mistooke,  
 Did not you tell me, I should know the man,  
 By the *Athenian* garments he hath on?  
 And so farre blamelesse proues my enterprize, 350  
 That I haue nointed an Athenians eies,  
 And so farre am I glad, it so did fort,  
 As this their iangling I esteeme a sport.

*Ob.* Thou see'st these Louers seeke a place to fight,  
 Hie therefore *Robin*, ouercast the night, 355  
 The starrie Welkin couer thou anon,

With drooping fogge as blacke as *Acheron*,  
 And lead these testie Riuals so astray,  
 As one come not within anothers way.  
 Like to *Lyfander*, sometime frame thy tongue, 360  
 Then stirre *Demetrius* vp with bitter wrong;  
 And sometime raile thou like *Demetrius*;  
 And from each other looke thou leade them thus,

<sup>331</sup> behalfe, F <sup>332</sup> alone: F <sup>333</sup> FR40 <sup>334</sup> shewe F <sup>335</sup> aby F abie R  
 holdes F ,]: F <sup>336</sup> -low, F <sup>337</sup> mine, FR <sup>338</sup> ,]: F go FR thee, F  
*Exit Lyfander and Demetrius.*] om. F *Exit.* R <sup>339</sup> You, F mistresse FR  
<sup>340</sup> ,]: F you, F <sup>341</sup> Not R -ny FR <sup>342</sup> hands, F than FR fray: F  
<sup>343</sup> legges F though, F <sup>344</sup> *Her.* I am amaz'd, and know not what to  
 say. *Exeunt.* FR om. Folio *Enter Oberon and Pucke.*] om. FR  
<sup>345</sup> -gence: F <sup>346</sup> -mitt F -mit't R willingly] wilfully FR <sup>347</sup> mee F  
 shaddowes R -tooke. FR <sup>348</sup> mee, I shoud F <sup>349</sup> -ments, F hath] had F  
<sup>350</sup> And, F proues F -prife F <sup>351</sup> eyes FR ,]: F <sup>352</sup> see'st, F ,]: F  
<sup>353</sup> Hy F <sup>354</sup> -ry FR <sup>355</sup> leade R teasty F -ty R <sup>356</sup> tongue: F  
<sup>357</sup> vp, F ,]: F <sup>358</sup> ,]: F <sup>359</sup> other, F lead F ,]: F

III. 2. 364-401.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 39

Till ore their browes, death-counterfeiting, sleepe  
With leaden legs, and Battie-wings doth creepe ; 365

Then crush this hearbe into *Lysanders* eie,  
Whose liquor hath this vertuous propertie,  
To take from thence all error, with his might,  
And make his eie-bals role with wonted fight.  
When they next wake, all this derision 370

Shall seeme a dreame, and fruitlesse vision,  
And backe to *Athens* shall the Louers wend  
With league, whose date till death shall neuer end.  
Whiles I in this affaire do thee imply,  
Ile to my Queene, and beg her *Indian* Boy ; 375  
And then I will her charmed eie release  
From monsters view, and all things shall be peace.

*Puck.* My Fairie Lord, this must be done with hafte,  
For night-swift Dragons cut the Clouds full fast,  
And yonder shines *Auroras* harbinger ; 380  
At whose approach Ghosts wandring here and there,  
Troope home to Church-yards ; damned spirits all,  
That in crosse-waies and flouds haue buriall,  
Alreadie to their wormie beds are gone ;  
For feare leaft day should looke their shames vpon, 385  
They wilfully themfelues dxile from light,  
And must for aye comfort with blacke browd night.

*Ob.* But we are spirits of another fort :  
I, with the mornings loue haue oft made sport,  
And like a Forrester, the groues may tread, 390  
Euen till the Easterne gate all fierie red,  
Opening on *Neptune*, with faire blessed beames,  
Turnes into yellow gold, his falt greene streames.  
But notwithstanding hafte, make no delay : [1562]  
We may effect this businesse, yet ere day. 395

*Puck.* Vp and downe, vp and downe, I will leade  
them vp and downe : I am fear'd in field and towne.  
*Goblin*, lead them vp and downe : here comes one. 400

*Enter Lysander.*

*Lyf.* Where art thou, proud *Demetrius* ?  
Speake thou now.

<sup>364</sup> -fainting, sleepe, F <sup>365</sup> ledgs R Batty wings FR ;]: F <sup>366</sup> FR41  
eye ; F <sup>367</sup> -ty FR <sup>368</sup> -our F <sup>369</sup> eyebals F roule F rolle R  
<sup>371</sup> fruitlesse F <sup>372</sup> wend, F <sup>373</sup> date, F <sup>374</sup> I, F -faire, doe F im-  
ply] imploy F apply R <sup>375</sup> ,]om. F ;]: F <sup>376</sup> eye F <sup>377</sup> viewe F  
<sup>378</sup> Faery F hafte. F <sup>379</sup> nights swift F night swift R <sup>380</sup> ;]: F <sup>381</sup> ap-  
proach, F approach R Ghosts, F heere R <sup>382</sup> ,]om. F ;]: F <sup>383</sup> crosse  
waies FR floods F <sup>384</sup> -dy FR -my FR ;]: F <sup>385</sup> exile FR <sup>387</sup> aie R  
black browd F <sup>388</sup> ;]. F <sup>389</sup> loue, F <sup>390</sup> tread,] tread F <sup>391</sup> -ry FR  
<sup>393</sup> Turnes, F golde F <sup>394</sup> notwithstanding, F ;], R <sup>395</sup> down F down F  
<sup>397</sup> lead F dowe. F <sup>398</sup> town F <sup>399</sup> ;]. F <sup>401</sup> Speak FR now./ FR

40 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 402-430.]

*Rob.* Here villaine, drawne & readie. Where art thou?

*Lyf.* I will be with thee straight.

*Rob.* Follow me then to plainer ground.

*Enter Demetrius.*

*Dem.* *Lyfander*, speake againe;

Thou runaway, thou coward, art thou fled? 405

Speake in some bush: Where dost thou hide thy head?

*Rob.* Thou coward, art thou bragging to the stars,  
Telling the bushes that thou look'st for wars,  
And wilt not come? Come recreant, come thou childe,  
Ile whip thee with a rod. He is defil'd 410  
That drawes a sword on thee.

*Dem.* Yea, art thou there?

*Ro.* Follow my voice, we'll try no manhood here. *Exit.*

*Lyf.* He goes before me, and still dares me on,  
When I come where he calls, then he's gone.  
The villaine is much lighter heel'd then I: 415  
I followed fast, but faster he did flye; *shifting places.*

That fallen am I in darke vneuen way,  
And here wil rest me. Come thou gentle day: *lye down.*

For if but once thou shew me thy gray light,  
Ile finde *Demetrius*, and reuenge this spight. 420

*Enter Robin and Demetrius.*

*Rob.* Ho, ho, ho; coward, why com'st thou not?

*Dem.* Abide me, if thou dar'st. For well I wot,  
Thou runst before me, shifting euery place,  
And dar'st not stand, nor looke me in the face.  
Where art thou? 425

*Rob.* Come hither, I am here.

*Dem.* Nay then thou mock'st me; thou shalt buy this  
deere,  
If euer I thy face by day-light see.  
Now goe thy way: faintnesse constraineth me,  
To measure out my length on this cold bed,  
By daies approach looke to be visited. 430

402 .dy FR 408 FR 42 404 ;]. F 406 ;]. FR doest F 407 ;]. om. F  
-ing, F starres F 408 warres FR 410 whippe F rodde F defil'd, F  
412 ;]. F wee'le F wee'l R *Exit* FR 418 on: F 414 calles FR he  
is F hee's R gon F 415 ;]. FR 416 ;]. F fly F flie R *shifting places.*  
om. FR 417 vneauen F 418 will FR ;]. F *lye down.* om. FR 419 once, F  
shewe F 421 *Enter* om. FR Robin, F 421 ;]. F comst F 422 mee F  
425 Where art thou now? F ;]. F 426 mockst FR ;]. F that F dear F  
deare R 427 day light F 428 Now, F ;]. F mee F 429 -ure, F  
length, F ;]. F 430 approach R

*Enter Helena.*

*Hel.* O weary night, O long and tedious night,  
Abate thy houres, shine comforts from the East,  
That I may backe to *Athens* by day-light,  
From these that my poore companie detest;  
And sleepe that sometime shuts vp sorrowes eie,  
Steale me a while from mine owne companie. 435  
*Sleepe.*

*Rob.* Yet but three? Come one more,  
Two of both kindes makes vp foure.  
Here she comes, curst and fad,  
*Cupid* is a knauish lad, 440

*Enter Hermia.*

Thus to make poore females mad.  
*Her.* Neuer so wearie, neuer so in woe,  
Bedabbled with the dew, and torne with briars,  
I can no further crawle, no further goe;  
My legs can keepe no pace with my desires. 445  
Here will I rest me till the breake of day,  
Heauens shield *Lysander*, if they meane a fray.

*Rob.* On the ground sleepe found,  
He apply your eie gentle louer, remedy. 450  
When thou wak'st, thou tak'st  
True delight in the sight of thy former Ladies eye, 455  
And the Country Prouerb knowne, [157<sup>1</sup>]  
That euery man should take his owne,  
In your waking shall be showne. 460  
*Jacke* shall haue *Jill*, nought shall goe ill,  
The man shall haue his Mare againe, and all shall bee  
well.

*They sleepe all the Act.*

<sup>432</sup>FR<sup>43</sup> -forts, F ,]; F <sup>438</sup>*Athens*, F day light F <sup>434</sup>-ny FR  
;]: F <sup>435</sup>sleepe, F -times FR eye F <sup>436</sup>mee F -ny R <sup>437</sup>,]. F  
<sup>438</sup>fower F <sup>439</sup>Heare thee F fadde. F <sup>440</sup>ladde F *Enter Hermia.*  
*om.* F <sup>441</sup>madde F <sup>442</sup>-ry FR <sup>443</sup>deaw F briers: F <sup>444</sup>,]: F  
<sup>445</sup>legges F pafe F <sup>446</sup>mee, F ,]: F <sup>447</sup>shielde F <sup>448</sup>ground, F  
<sup>449</sup>,]: F <sup>451</sup>eye, F <sup>455</sup>delight, F <sup>456</sup>fight, F <sup>457</sup>eie R ,]: F  
<sup>458</sup>-erbe FR <sup>460</sup>shoven F <sup>461</sup>,]: F <sup>462</sup>go R ,]: F <sup>463</sup>again F  
be FR *They sleepe all the Act.* *om.* FR

*Actus Quartus.*

*Enter Queene of Fairies, and Clowne, and Fairies, and the King behinde them.*

*Tita.* Come, sit thee downe vpon this flowry bed,  
While I thy amiable cheekes doe coy,  
And sticke muske rofes in thy fleeke smoothe head,  
And kisse thy faire large eares, my gentle ioy.

*Clow.* Where's *Pease blossome*?

5

*Peaf.* Ready.

*Clow.* Scratch my head, *Pease-blossome*. Wher's Moun-  
sieur *Cobweb*.

*Cob.* Ready.

*Clowne.* Mounsieur *Cobweb*, good Mounsier get your  
weapons in your hand, & kill me a red hipt humble-Bee, 10  
on the top of a thistle; and good Mounsier bring mee  
the hony bag. Doe not fret your selfe too much in the  
action, Mounsier; and good Mounsier haue a care the  
hony bag breake not, I would be loth to haue yon ouer- 15  
flowne with a hony-bag signiour. Where's Mounsier  
*Mustardseed*?

*Muf.* Ready.

*Clow.* Giue me your neafe, Mounsier *Mustardseed*.

Pray you leaue your courtesie good Mounsier.

20

*Muf.* What's your will?

*Clow.* Nothing good Mounsier, but to help Caualery  
*Cobweb* to scratch. I must to the Barbers Mounsier, for  
me-thinks I am maruellous hairy about the face. And I  
am such a tender affe, if my haire do but tickle me, I must 25  
scratch.

*Tita.* What, wilt thou heare some musicke, my sweet  
loue.

*Clow.* I haue a reasonable good eare in musicke. Let  
vs haue the tongs and the bones.

*Musicke Tongs, Rurall Musicke.*

*Actus Quartus.] om. FR Faeries F Faeries: R 1 Come sit FR*  
*2 do R 3 stick musk F smooth F 5 Pease-blossome FR 7 heade F*  
*-sieur FR 8.]? FR 10 FR44 -sieur] -sieur, F -sieur R get] get you F*  
*11 Humble Bee F 12 toppe F ;]: F -sieur, F me R 13 bagge F*  
*much, F 14 ;]: F care, F 15 honybagge F wold be loath F you FR*  
*-flowen F 16 honibag signior F 17 -seede F 18 -die F 19 -seede F*  
*20 you, F curtise, F -sie, R 21 wil R 22 helpe FR 23 webbe, F -bers, F*  
*, J. F 24 me thinks F -uailles F -uailous R 25 doe F mee F 27 some*  
*some R -lique F -lick R sweete F .]: FR 28 -lique F Let vs] Lets F*  
*29 tongs, F Musicke Tongs, Rurall Musicke.] om. FR*

IV. 1. 30-63.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 43

*Tita.* Or say sweete Loue, what thou desirest to eat. 30

*Clowne.* Truly a pecke of Prouender; I could munch  
your good dry Oates. Me-thinkes I haue a great desire  
to a bottle of hay: good hay, sweete hay hath no fel-  
low.

*Tita.* I haue a venturous Fairy, 35  
That shall seeke the Squirrels hoard,  
And fetch thee new Nuts.

*Clown.* I had rather haue a handfull or two of dried  
pease. But I pray you let none of your people stirre me, I  
haue an exposition of sleepe come vpon me.

*Tyta.* Sleepe thou, and I will winde thee in my arms, 40  
Faires be gone, and be alwaies away.  
So doth the woodbine, the sweet Honisuckle,  
Gently entwist; the female Iuy fo  
Enrings the baky fingers of the Elme.  
O how I loue thee! how I dote on thee! 45 [157<sup>2</sup>]

*Enter Robin goodfellow and Oberon.*

*Ob.* Welcome good *Robin*:  
Seeft thou this sweet fight?  
Her dotage now I doe begin to pittie.  
For meeting her of late behinde the wood,  
Seeking sweet fauours for this hatefull foole,  
I did vpbraide her, and fall out with her. 50  
For she his hairy temples then had rounded,  
With coronet of fresh and fragrant flowers.  
And that same dew which somtime on the buds,  
Was wont to swell like round and orient pearles;  
Stood now within the pretty flouriets eyes, 55  
Like teares that did their owne disgrace bewaile.  
When I had at my pleasure taunted her,  
And she in milde termes beg'd my patience,  
I then did aske of her, her changeling childe,  
Which straight she gaue me, and her Fairy sent 60  
To beare him to my Bower in Fairy Land.  
And now I haue the Boy, I will vndoe  
This hatefull imperfection of her eyes.

<sup>30</sup> Or, F eate FR <sup>31</sup> Truly FR -uander. F mounch FR <sup>32</sup> Me  
thinks, F <sup>33</sup> .j. F <sup>34</sup> I have a venturous Fairy, that shall seeke the  
Squirrels hoord, / And fetch thee newe nuts. F <sup>37</sup> -full, F dried F  
<sup>38</sup> But, F you: F stir R .j: F <sup>39</sup> mee F <sup>40</sup> armes FR <sup>41</sup> Faeries F  
gon F <sup>42</sup> sweete FR <sup>43</sup> .j: F <sup>45</sup> FR45 and Oberon] om. FR <sup>46</sup> .j. F  
sweete F fight? / FR <sup>47</sup> do R -ginne F -tie F <sup>48</sup> late, F <sup>49</sup> sweete FR  
faours] faours F <sup>50</sup> deawe F sometime F buddes F <sup>54</sup> swell, F  
<sup>55</sup> eies R <sup>56</sup> teares, F <sup>57</sup> had, F -ure, F <sup>58</sup> she, F tearmes, F  
tearmes R begd FR <sup>60</sup> childe: F <sup>60</sup> mee F <sup>61</sup> him, F bower, F  
-rie F <sup>63</sup> eies R

And gentle *Pucke*, take this transformed scalpe,  
 From off the head of this *Athenian* swaine ; 65  
 That he awaking when the other doe,  
 May all to *Athens* backe againe repaire,  
 And thinke no more of this nights accidents,  
 But as the fierce vexation of a dreame.  
 But first I will releafe the Fairy Queene. 70

*Be thou as thou wast wont to be ;  
 See as thou wast wont to see.  
 Dians bud, or Cupids flower,  
 Hath such force and blessed power.*

Now my *Titania* wake you my sweet Queene. 75

*Tita.* My *Oberon*, what visions haue I seene !  
 Me-thought I was enamoured of an Assie.

*Ob.* There lies your loue.

*Tita.* How came these things to passe ?  
 Oh, how mine eyes doth loath this visage now ! 80  
*Ob.* Silence a while. *Robin* take off his head :

*Titania*, musick call, and strike more dead  
 Then common sleepe ; of all these, fine the sense.

*Tita.* Musicke, ho musicke, such as charmeth sleepe.

*Musick still.*

*Rob.* When thou wak'st, with thine owne fooles eies  
 peepe. (me

*Ob.* Sound musick ; come my Queen, take hands with 85  
 And rocke the ground whereon these sleepers be.

Now thou and I are new in amity,  
 And will to morrow midnight, solemnly  
 Dance in Duke *Thefcus* house triumphantly,  
 And blesse it to all faire posterity. 90  
 There shall the paires of faithfull Louers be  
 Wedded, with *Thefcus*, all in iollity.

*Rob.* Faire King attend, and marke,  
 I doe heare the morning Larke.

*Ob.* Then my Queene in silence sad, 95  
 Trip we after the nights shade ;

<sup>64</sup> And, F *Puck* F <sup>65</sup> off] of F heade F <sup>66</sup> hee, F do FR <sup>69</sup> fearece F  
<sup>71</sup> *Be thou*] Be, F *Be* R bee : F <sup>72</sup> See, F <sup>73</sup> budde F <sup>74</sup> force, F  
<sup>75</sup> Now, F <sup>76</sup> *-nia*, F you, FR <sup>77</sup> sweete FR <sup>78</sup> Me thought F <sup>79</sup> -ourd F  
<sup>80</sup> -red R <sup>81</sup> lyes F loue. / FR <sup>82</sup> O F eies R doth] doe F loathe R  
<sup>83</sup> this] his F <sup>84</sup> *Robin*, F of R his] this FR :]; R <sup>85</sup> -ficke FR <sup>86</sup> :]; F  
<sup>87</sup> Musick, howe musick : F *Musick still.*] om. FR <sup>88</sup> When] Now, when F  
<sup>89</sup> own foole eyes F peep R <sup>90</sup> :]; F come, F me, F <sup>91</sup> Now, F <sup>92</sup> -tie F  
<sup>93</sup> solemnly F <sup>94</sup> Daunce, F <sup>95</sup> posterity] prosperitie F <sup>96</sup> -tie F  
<sup>97</sup> Fairy King, FR attend and R marke : F <sup>98</sup> do FR <sup>99</sup> Queene, F  
<sup>100</sup> Trippe F the] om. F :]; F

IV. 1. 97-131.] *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* 45

We the Globe can compasse soone,  
Swifter then the wandring Moone.

*Tita.* Come my Lord, and in our flight,  
Tell me how it came this night, 100  
That I sleeping heere was found,

*Sleepers Lye still.*

With these mortals on the ground. *Excunt.* [158']  
*Winde Hornes.*

*Enter Theseus, Egeus, Hippolita and all his traine.*

*Thef.* Goe one of you, finde out the Forrester,  
For now our obferuation is perform'd;  
And since we haue the vaward of the day, 105  
My Loue fhall heare the musicke of my hounds.  
Vncouple in the Westerne valley, let them goe;  
Dispatch I say, and finde the Forrester.  
We will faire Queene, vp to the Mountaines top.  
And marke the musicall confusion 110  
Of hounds and eccho in coniunction.

*Hip.* I was with *Hercules* and *Cadmus* once,  
When in a wood of *Crete* they bayed the Beare  
With hounds of *Sparta*; neuer did I heare  
Such gallant chiding. For besides the groues, 115  
The skies, the fountaines, euery region neere,  
Seeme all one mutuall cry. I neuer heard  
So musicall a discord, such sweet thunder.

*Thef.* My hounds are bred out of the *Spartan* kinde,  
So flew'd, so fanded, and their heads are hung 120  
With eares that sweepe away the morning dew,  
Crooke kneed, and dew-lapt, like *Theffalian* Bulls,  
Slow in purfuit, but match'd in mouth like bells,  
Each vnder each. A cry more tuneable  
Was neuer hallowed to, nor cheer'd with horne, 125  
In *Crete*, in *Sparta*, nor in *Theffaly*;  
Iudge when you heare. Bnt soft, what nimphs are these?

*Egeus.* My Lord, this is my daughter heere alleepe,  
And this *Lyfander*, this *Demetrius* is,  
This *Helena*, olde *Nedars Helena*, 130  
I wonder of this being heere together.

<sup>97</sup> We, the Globe, F <sup>99</sup> flight. R <sup>101</sup> here F *Sleepers Lye still.*] om. FR  
<sup>102</sup> horne. F *Enter Theseus and all his traine.* FR <sup>103</sup> -ster: F  
<sup>104</sup> -formde. F <sup>107</sup> -ple, F -lie F go R ;]: F <sup>109</sup> Wee will, F toppe F  
], FR <sup>111</sup> Echo F <sup>112</sup> FR47 -mus, F <sup>113</sup> Beare, F <sup>114</sup> ;]: F <sup>116</sup> fkyes F  
neare F ], om. F <sup>118</sup> [sweete FR <sup>119</sup> -lane F ,]: F <sup>127</sup> fanded: F  
<sup>121</sup> eares, F deawe F <sup>122</sup> deawlapt F Bulls: F <sup>123</sup> Slowe F -suite R  
]; F matcht FR <sup>124</sup> tunable F <sup>125</sup> hollowd FR cheerd F <sup>126</sup> ;]. F  
<sup>127</sup> But FR ,]. F nymphes F <sup>128</sup> is] om. F a sleepe F <sup>130</sup> old F  
]. F <sup>131</sup> this] their F here F



46 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [IV. I. 132-166.]

*The.* No doubt they rose vp early, to obserue  
The right of May ; and hearing our intent,  
Came heere in grace of our solemnity.  
But speake *Egeus*, is not this the day 135  
That *Hermia* should giue answer of her choice ?  
*Egeus.* It is, my Lord.  
*Thef.* Goe bid the huntf-men wake them with their  
hornes.

*Hornes and they wake.*

*Shout within, they all start vp.*

*Thef.* Good morrow friends: Saint *Valentine* is past,  
Begin these wood birds but to couple now? 140  
*Lyf.* Pardon my Lord.

*Thef.* I pray you all stand vp.  
I know you two are Riual enemies.  
How comes this gentle concord in the world,  
That hatred is is so farre from iealousie,  
To sleepe by hate, and feare no enmity. 145

*Lyf.* My Lord, I shall reply amazedly,  
Halfe sleepe, halfe waking. But as yet, I sweare,  
I cannot truly say how I came heere.  
But as I thinke (for truly would I speake)  
And now I doe bethinke me, so it is ; 150  
I came with *Hermia* hither. Our intent  
Was to be gone from *Athens*, where we might be  
Without the perill of the *Athenian* Law.

*Ege.* Enough, enough, my Lord : you haue enough ;  
I beg the Law, the Law, vpon his head : 155  
They would haue stolne away, they would *Demetrius*,  
Thereby to haue defeated you and me :  
You of your wife, and me of my consent ;  
Of my consent, that she should be your wife.

*Dem.* My Lord, faire *Helen* told me of their stealth, 160  
Of this their purpose hither, to this wood,  
And I in furie hither followed them ; [158<sup>2</sup>]  
Faire *Helena*, in fancy followed me.  
But my good Lord, I wot not by what power,  
(But by some power it is) my loue 165  
To *Hermia* (melted as the snow)

<sup>132</sup> doubt, F earely F <sup>133</sup> ;]: F <sup>134</sup> heere, F -tie F <sup>135</sup> speake, F day, F  
<sup>136</sup> choyce F choyse R <sup>138</sup> Goe, F Go R -]om. FR *Hornes and they*  
*wake*] Winde hornes FR *Shoute within*: F <sup>139</sup> -row, F :]. F :]. F  
<sup>140</sup> woodbirds F -ple, F <sup>141</sup> -don, FR all, F <sup>142</sup> know, F <sup>143</sup> worlde F  
<sup>144</sup> is is]is FR <sup>145</sup> FR48 -tie, F <sup>146</sup> shal F <sup>147</sup> But, F <sup>148</sup> truly FR  
here FR <sup>149</sup> truly FR <sup>150</sup> do R mee F <sup>151</sup> -mia, F <sup>152</sup> gon F  
:] F be]om. F <sup>153</sup> lawe, F <sup>154</sup> enough my FR :]. F <sup>155</sup> begge F  
<sup>156</sup> would, De- FR <sup>158</sup> mee, F :]: F <sup>162</sup> -ry FR <sup>163</sup> following mee F  
<sup>164</sup> wote F :]om. FR <sup>165</sup> loue, F <sup>166</sup> snowe F Seemes FR

IV. 1. 167-200.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 47

Seems to me now as the remembrance of an idle gaude,  
Which in my childehood I did doat vpon :  
And all the faith, the vertue of my heart,  
The obieſt and the pleaſure of mine eye, 170  
Is onely *Helena*. To her, my Lord,  
Was I betroth'd, ere I ſee *Hermia*,  
But like a ſickenefſe did I loath this food,  
But as in health, come to my naturall taſte,  
Now doe I wiſh it, loue it, long for it, 175  
And will for euermore be true to it.

*Theſ.* Faire Louers, you are fortunately met ;  
Of this diſcourſe we ſhall heare more anon.  
*Egeus*, I will ouer-beare your will ;  
For in the Temple, by and by with vs, 180  
Theſe couples ſhall eternally be knit.  
And for the morning now is ſomething worne,  
Our purpoſ'd hunting ſhall be ſet aſide.  
Away, with vs to *Athens* ; three and three,  
Wee'll hold a feaſt in great ſolemnitie. 185  
Come *Hippolita*. *Exit Duke and Lords.*

*Dem.* Theſe things ſeeme ſmall & vndiſtinguiſhable,  
Like farre off mountaines turned into Clouds.

*Her.* Me-thinks I ſee theſe things with parted eye,  
When euery things ſeemes double. 190

*Hel.* So me-thinkes :  
And I haue found *Demetrius*, like a iewell,  
Mine owne, and not mine owne.

*Dem.* It ſeemes to mee,  
That yet we ſleepe, we dreame. Do not you thinke,  
The Duke was heere, and bid vs follow him? 195

*Her.* Yea, and my Father.

*Hel.* And *Hippolita*.

*Lys.* And he bid vs follow to the Temple.

*Dem.* Why then we are awake ; lets follow him, and  
by the way let vs recount our dreames.

*Bottom* wakes.

*Exit Louers.*

*Clo.* When my cue comes, call me, and I will anſwer. 200

<sup>168</sup> -hoode F dote FR <sup>170</sup> eie R <sup>172</sup> betrothed F bethroth'd R  
-mia : F <sup>178</sup> But, F ſickneſſe, FR loathe R foode. F <sup>174</sup> But, F  
<sup>176</sup> doe I] I doe F do I R <sup>177</sup> ;]. F <sup>178</sup> -courſe, FR ſhall heare more]  
more will here F will heare more R <sup>179</sup> F49 -]om. FR ;]: F <sup>180</sup> R49  
by, with F <sup>182</sup> And, F ſomthing F <sup>184</sup> vs, F ;]. F <sup>185</sup> Weele F  
Wee'l R holde F feaſt, F -ty R <sup>186-6</sup> *Hippolita*.] F *Exit Duke*  
*and Lords.*] om. F *Exit*. R <sup>189</sup> Me thinks F things, F eie R <sup>190</sup> thing FR  
mee thinks F <sup>191</sup> fonnd F <sup>192-8</sup> *Dem.* It ſeemes] *Dem.* Are you ſure/  
That we are awake? It ſeemes FR <sup>198</sup> me FR <sup>196</sup> here F <sup>196</sup> *Hippolita* F  
<sup>197</sup> bid] did bid F <sup>198</sup> then, F ;]: F let's R <sup>199</sup> let vs] lets F *Exit*  
*Louers.*] om. F *Exit*. R *Bottom* wakes.] om. FR <sup>200</sup> mee F anſwere F

48 *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* [IV. 1. 201-2. 18.

My next is, most faire *Piramus*. Hey ho. *Peter Quince?*  
*Flute* the bellows-mender? *Snout* the tinker? *Starueling?* Gods my life! Stolne hence, and left me asleepe: I  
 haue had a most rare vision. I had a dreame, past the wit  
 of man, to say, what dreame it was. Man is but an Assle, 205  
 if he goe about to expound this dreame. Me-thought I  
 was, there is no man can tell what. Me-thought I was,  
 and me-thought I had. But man is but a patch'd foole,  
 if he will offer to say, what me-thought I had. The eye of  
 man hath not heard, the eare of man hath not feen, mans 210  
 hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceiue, nor his  
 heart to report, what my dreame was. I will get *Peter*  
*Quince* to write a ballet of this dreame, it shall be called  
*Bottomes Dreame*, because it hath no bottome; and I will  
 fing it in the latter end of a play, before the Duke. Per- 215  
 aduventure, to make it the more gracious, I shall fing it  
 at her death. *Exit.*

*Enter Quince, Flute, Thisbie, Snout, and Starueling.* [IV. 2.

*Quin.* Haue you sent to *Bottomes* house? Is he come  
 home yet?

*Staru.* He cannot be heard of. Out of doubt hee is  
 transported.

*This.* If he come not, then the play is mar'd. It goes 5 [159']  
 not forward, doth it?

*Quin.* It is not possible: you haue not a man in all  
*Athens*, able to discharge *Piramus* but he.

*This.* No, hee hath simply the best wit of any handy-  
 craft man in *Athens*. 10

*Quin.* Yea, and the best person too, and hee is a very  
 Paramour, for a sweet voyce.

*This.* You must say, Paragon. A Paramour is (God  
 blesse vs) a thing of nought.

*Enter Snug the Ioyner.*

*Snug.* Masters, the Duke is comming from the Tem- 15  
 ple, and there is two or three Lords & Ladies more mar-  
 ried: If our sport had gone forward, we had all bin made  
 men.

201 *Pyramus*, F *Peeter* F 202 *Flute*, F bellows men- F 203 mee a  
 fleepe? F 204 I had] I haue had FR 205 say; F 206 hee F go R  
 to] om. F Me thought F 207 Me thought F 208 me thought F a  
 patch'd] patcht a FR 209 hee F mee thought F cie R 210 feene FR  
 211 F50 212 hearte F dream/ R50 213 dream R,]: F call'd FR  
 214 -toms F,]: F,]: F 216 gracious F 217 *Exit*] om. F -bie,]-by F  
*Snout, and Starueling*] and the rabble FR 1-toms F 2 home, F 8 *Staru.*]  
*Flut.* FR Hee F,] F hee F 8 hee F mard FR 6,]. F 7:]. F  
 man, F 8 *Pyramus*, F 9 he R 10 man, F 11 to F he R 12 sweete FR  
 voyce F 14 *Snug*, F 17:]. FR gon F wee F beene FR

*This.* O sweet bully *Bottom*: thus hath he lost sixpence a day, during his life; he could not have escaped sixpence a day. And the Duke had not given him sixpence a day for playing *Piramus*, Ile be hang'd. He would have deferred it. Sixpence a day in *Piramus*, or nothing.

*Enter Bottom.*

*Bot.* Where are these Lads? Where are these hearts?

*Quin. Bottom*, ô most courageous day! O most happy hour!

*Bot.* Masters, I am to discourse wonders; but ask me not what. For if I tell you, I am no true *Athenian*. I will tell you every thing as it fell out.

*Qu.* Let vs heare, sweet *Bottom*. 30

*Bot.* Not a word of me: all that I will tell you, is, that the Duke hath dined. Get your apparell together, good strings to your beards, new ribbands to your pumps, meete presently at the Palace, every man looke ore his part: for the short and the long is, our play is preferred: In any case let *Thisby* have cleane linnen: and let not him that playes the Lion, paire his nailes, for they shall hang out for the Lions claws. And most deare Actors, eate no Onions, nor Garlicke; for wee are to utter sweete breath, and I doe not doubt but to heare them say, it is a sweet Comedy. No more words: away, go away. 40

*Exeunt.*

### *Actus Quintus.*

*Enter Theseus, Hippolita, Egeus and his Lords.*

*Hip.* 'Tis strange my *Theseus*, y these louers speake of.

*The.* More strange then true. I neuer may beleuee These anticke fables, nor these Fairy toyes, Louers and mad men haue such seething braines,

<sup>19</sup> sweete FR :]. F hee F six pence F sixpence R <sup>20</sup>]; F hee  
coulede F six pence F <sup>21</sup> six pence F <sup>22</sup> day, F *Pyr*- F hanged F  
<sup>23</sup> Six pence F day, F *Piramus*,/ F51 -tom F <sup>24</sup> harts F <sup>25</sup> -tom F  
-py FR <sup>27</sup> R51 :]; F aske FR mee R <sup>28</sup> no] not FR <sup>29</sup> tel R  
as] right as FR <sup>30</sup> sweete FR -tom F <sup>31</sup> mee. F <sup>32</sup> apparrell F  
<sup>33</sup> beardes F ribands F pumpes F <sup>34</sup> -rie R <sup>35</sup> :]. F For, F -ferd. FR  
<sup>36</sup> him, F <sup>37</sup> plaies FR Lyon, pare F :]; F <sup>38</sup> Lyons F <sup>39</sup>]; F we FR  
<sup>40</sup>]; F do FR hear F <sup>41</sup> sweete FR wordes. F *Exeunt.*] om. FR  
*Actus Quintus.*] om. FR *Hyp*- F *Egeus and his Lords*] and Philostrate FR  
<sup>1</sup> Tis FR strange, F <sup>2</sup> strange F <sup>3</sup> antique F toies R :]. F <sup>4</sup> Louers, F

Such shaping phantasies, that apprehend more 5  
 Then coole reason euer comprehends.  
 The Lunaticke, the Louer, and the Poet,  
 Are of imagination all compact.  
 One sees more diuels then vaste hell can hold;  
 That is the mad man. The Louer, all as franticke, 10  
 Sees *Helens* beauty in a brow of *Egipt*.  
 The Poets eye in a fine frenzy rolling, doth glance  
 From heauen to earth, from earth to heauen.  
 And as imagination bodies forth the forms of things 15  
 Vnknowne; the Poets pen turnes them to shapes,  
 And giues to aire nothing, a locall habitation,  
 And a name. Such tricks hath strong imagination,  
 That if it would but apprehend some ioy, [159<sup>2</sup>]  
 It comprehends some bringer of that ioy. 20  
 Or in the night, imagining some feare,  
 How easie is a bush suppos'd a Beare?  
*Hip.* But all the storie of the night told ouer,  
 And all their minds transfigur'd so together,  
 More witnesse than fancies images, 25  
 And growes to something of great constancie;  
 But howfoeuer, strange, and admirable.

*Enter louers, Lyfander, Demetrius, Hermia,  
 and Helena.*

*The.* Heere come the louers, full of ioy and mirth:  
 Ioy, gentle friends, ioy and fresh dayes  
 Of loue accompany your hearts. 30

*Lyf.* More then to vs, waite in your royall walkes,  
 your boord, your bed.

*The.* Come now, what maskes, what dances shall  
 we haue,  
 To weare away this long age of three houres,  
 Between our after supper, and bed-time?  
 Where is our vsuall manager of mirth? 35  
 What Reuels are in hand? Is there no play,  
 To ease the anguish of a torturing houre?  
 Call *Egeus*.

*Ege.* Heere mighty *Thefeus*.

<sup>6</sup> more, F -hends. The lunaticke, / The louer, and the Poet are of im-  
 agination all compact. / F <sup>9</sup>-els, F vast F holde: F <sup>10</sup>-tick F  
<sup>11</sup> *Egipt* F <sup>12</sup>eye, F eie R -zy, F <sup>13</sup>heauen. And as / Imagination F  
<sup>15</sup> formes FR things / F52 ;]: F penne F <sup>16</sup>ayery F airy R  
<sup>18</sup> trickes FR <sup>19</sup>R52 <sup>20</sup>But, F -ry FR mindes R <sup>21</sup>-cy FR ;]: F  
<sup>27</sup> strange and FR Louers; F louers: R -mia and F <sup>28</sup>Here FR :]. F  
<sup>29</sup> daies FR <sup>31</sup>roiall R boorde F bedde F <sup>32</sup>now: F daunces F  
 wee FR <sup>33</sup>hours, betweene / F <sup>34</sup>-tweene R our] Or FR bed-time.  
 Where is our vsuall manager / Of mirth F <sup>37</sup>hower? Call *Philoftrate*. / F  
<sup>38</sup> *Egeus*] *Philoftrate* FR *Ege*.] *Philoftrate*. FR Here F

*The.* Say, what abridgement haue you for this eue-  
ning?

What maske? What musicke? How shall we beguile 40  
The lazie time, if not with some delight?

*Ege.* There is a breefe how many sports are rife :  
Make choise of which your Highnesse will see first.

*Lif.* The battell with the Centaurs to be fung  
By an Athenian Eunuch, to the Harpe. 45

*The.* Wee'l none of that. That haue I told my Loue  
In glory of my kinfman Hercules.

*Lif.* The riot of the tipsie Bachanals,  
Tearing the Thracian finger, in their rage?

*The.* That is an old deuice, and it was plaid 50  
When I from *Thebes* came last a Conqueror.

*Lif.* The thrice three Muses, mourning for the death  
of learning, late deceast in beggerie.

*The.* That is some Satire keene and criticall,  
Not sorting with a nuptiall ceremonie. 55

*Lif.* A tedious breefe Scene of yong *Piramus*,  
And his loue *Thisby*; very tragicall mirth.

*The.* Merry and tragicall? Tedious, and briefe? That  
is, hot ice, and wondrous strange snow. How shall wee 60  
finde the concord of this discord?

*Ege.* A play there is, my Lord, some ten words long,  
Which is as breefe, as I haue knowne a play ;  
But by ten words, my Lord, it is too long ;  
Which makes it tedious. For in all the play,  
There is not one word apt, one Player fitted. 65

And tragicall my noble Lord it is : for *Piramus*  
Therein doth kill himselfe. Which when I saw  
Rehearst, I must confesse, made mine eyes water :  
But more merrie teares, the passion of loud laughter 70  
Neuer shed.

*Thef.* What are they that do play it?

*Ege.* Hard handed men, that worke in Athens heere,  
Which neuer labour'd in their mindes till now ;

<sup>39</sup> abridgment R <sup>40</sup> maske, FR <sup>41</sup> -zy tyme F <sup>42</sup> *Ege.*] *Philost.* FR  
briefe, FR rife] ripe F :]. FR <sup>43</sup> choyce, F <sup>44</sup> *Li.*] *The.* FR -taures F  
fung, F <sup>45</sup> Eunuche F .] F <sup>46</sup> *The.*] om. FR Weele F tolde FR  
loue, FR <sup>47</sup> *Li.*] om. FR ryot F <sup>48</sup> FR53 <sup>49</sup> *The.*] om. FR olde FR  
deuise F :]. F ; R plaid, FR <sup>50</sup> -rer F <sup>51</sup> *Li.*] om. FR thrise F  
<sup>52</sup> Of FR deceast, F -ry FR .] F <sup>53</sup> *The.*] om. FR <sup>54</sup> -ny FR  
<sup>55</sup> *Li.*] om. FR briefe FR young FR *Pyr.* F ,] om. F <sup>56</sup> .] F FR  
<sup>57</sup> *The.*] om. FR -ry, F ,] om. R briefe. That is hot Ice, / FR <sup>58</sup> Ice R  
wondrous F <sup>59</sup> we F find F -cord / Of F <sup>60</sup> *Ege.*] *Philost.* FR long ; F  
<sup>61</sup> briefe FR :]. F <sup>62</sup> But, F Lord it F :]. F <sup>63</sup> plaier R <sup>64</sup> -call, FR  
Lord, FR :]. F *Pyramus*, F <sup>65</sup> -in, F <sup>66</sup> eies R :]. R <sup>67</sup> -ry F  
], om. FR <sup>68</sup> they, F doe F <sup>69</sup> *Ege.*] *Phil.* FR here FR <sup>70</sup> minds F  
:] F

And now haue toyled their vnbreathed memories  
With this same play, against your nuptiall.

75

*The.* And we will heare it.

*Phi.* No, my noble Lord, it is not for you. I haue heard [160]<sup>1</sup>  
It ouer, and it is nothing, nothing in the world ;  
Vnlesse you can finde sport in their intents,  
Extreamely stretcht, and cond with cruell paine,  
To doe you seruice.

80

*Thef.* I will heare that play. For neuer any thing  
Can be amisse, when simpleness and duty tender it.  
Goe bring them in, and take your places, Ladies.

*Hip.* I loue not to see wretchednesse orecharged ;  
And duty in his seruice perishing.

85

*Thef.* Why gentle sweet, you shall see no such thing.

*Hip.* He saies, they can doe nothing in this kinde.

*Thef.* The kinder we, to giue them thanks for nothing  
Our sport shall be, to take what they mistake ;  
And what poore duty cannot doe, noble respect  
Takes it in might, not merit.

90

Where I haue come, great Clarke haue purposed  
To greete me with premeditated welcomes ;

Where I haue seene them shiuer and looke pale,  
Make periods in the midst of sentences,

95

Throttle their practiz'd accent in their feares,  
And in conclusion, dumbly haue broke off,  
Not paying me a welcome. Trust me sweete,  
Out of this silence yet, I pickt a welcome :

100

And in the modesty of fearefull duty,  
I read as much, as from the rattling tongue  
Of faucy and audacious eloquence.

Loue therefore, and tongue-tide simplicity,  
In least, speake most, to my capacity.

105

*Egeus.* So please your Grace, the Prologue is addrest.

*Duke.* Let him approach.

*Flor. Trum.*

*Enter the Prologue.*

*Quince.*

*Pro.* If we offend, it is with our good will.  
That you should thinke, we come not to offend,  
But with good will. To shew our simple skill,  
That is the true beginning of our end.  
Consider then, we come but in despight.

110

<sup>74</sup> -ries, FR <sup>76</sup> wee F <sup>79</sup> entents F <sup>80</sup> Extremely R <sup>81</sup> do FR  
<sup>82</sup> duty F <sup>84</sup> FR <sup>85</sup> duty, F duty R -uice, F <sup>87</sup> Why, F sweete FR  
<sup>88</sup> sayes F do R <sup>89</sup> thanks, F -ing. FR <sup>90</sup> ;]. F : R <sup>91</sup> do R  
<sup>92</sup> Clerkes F <sup>94</sup> me, F <sup>96</sup> -sion dumbly F <sup>99</sup> mee F me, F <sup>100</sup> fi-  
lence, F <sup>102</sup> rattling F <sup>104</sup> Loue, F tong-tide F <sup>106</sup> *Egeus.* *Philof.* FR  
<sup>107</sup> *Flor. Trum.*] om. FR *Quince.*] om. FR <sup>108</sup> wee F

We do not come, as minding to content you,  
 Our true intent is. All for your delight,  
 We are not heere. That you should here repent you, 115  
 The Actors are at hand ; and by their show,  
 You shall know all, that you are like to know.

*Thef.* This fellow doth not stand vpon points.

*Lys.* He hath rid his Prologue, like a rough Colt: he  
 knowes not the stop. A good morall my Lord. It is not 120  
 enough to speake, but to speake true.

*Hip.* Indeed hee hath plaid on his Prologue, like a  
 childe on a Recorder, a found, but not in gouernment.

*Thef.* His speech was like a tangled chaine: nothing  
 impaired, but all difordered. Who is next? 125

*Truwyer with a Trumpet before them.*

*Enter Pyramus and Thisby, Wall, Moone-shine, and Lyon.*

*Prol.* Gentles, perchance you wonder at this show,  
 But wonder on, till truth make all things plaine.  
 This man is *Pyramus*, if you would know ;  
 This beauteous Lady, *Thisby* is certaine.  
 This man, with lyme and rough-cast, doth present 130  
 Wall, that vile wall, which did these louers funder:  
 And through walls chink (poor foules) they are content  
 To whispe. At the which, let no man wonder.  
 This man, with Lanthorne, dog, and bush of thorne,  
 Presenteth moone-shine. For if you will know, 135  
 By moone-shine did these Louers thinke no scorne  
 To meet at *Ninus* toombe, there, there to wooe:  
 This grizy beaft (which Lyon hight by name) [160<sup>2</sup>]  
 The trusty *Thisby*, comming first by night,  
 Did scarre away, or rather did affright: 140  
 And as she fled, her mantle she did fall ;  
 Which Lyon vile with bloody mouth did staine.  
 Anon comes *Pyramus*, fweet youth and tall,  
 And findes his *Thisbies* Mantle flaine ;  
 Whereat, with blade, with bloody blamefull blade, 145  
 He brauely broacht his boiling bloody breaft,  
 And *Thisby*, tarrying in Mulberry shade,

118 doe F 115 Wee F here F 116 ;]: F and, F shoue F 117 knowe, F  
 118 FR55 119 Colte F hee FR 120 stoppe F 121 ;]: F 122 hee F his]  
 this FR 123 child F found; F gouernement F 124 speach F ;]: FR  
 125 *Truwyer with a Trumpet before them.*] om. FR -mus, F *Wall,*] and  
 Wall, and F 126 show,] show. F 127 But, F truthe F 128 *Pyr.* F  
 knowe: F 129 -tious FR Lady *Thisby* F 130 ]om. R -]om. FR  
 131 wals chinke FR (]), F poore FR 132 lanterne, dogge F 133 meete FR  
 tombe F 134 grizly FR 135 *Thisby* F 141 ;]: F 142 Lion R 143 *Pyr.* F  
 fweete FR youth, F 144 his] his trusty FR -byes F ;]: F 146 boyl- F  
 bloody FR .]. F 147 tary- F



54 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [V. 1. 148-182.]

His dagger drew, and died. For all the rest,  
Let *Lyon*, *Mooneshine*, *Wall*, and *Louers* twaine,  
At large discourse, while here they doe remaine. 150

*Exit all but Wall.*

*Thef.* I wonder if the *Lion* be to speake.

*Deme.* No wonder, my Lord: one *Lion* may, when  
many *Asses* doe.

*Exit Lyon, Thisbie, and Mooneshine.*

*Wall.* In this same Interlude, it doth befall,  
That I, one *Snowt* (by name) present a wall: 155  
And such a wall, as I would haue you thinke,  
That had in it a crannied hole or chinke:  
Through which the *Louers*, *Piramus* and *Thisbie*  
Did whisper often, very secretly.

This loame, this rough-cast, and this stone doth shew, 160  
That I am that same *Wall*; the truth is so.  
And this the cranny is, right and sinifer,  
Through which the fearefull *Louers* are to whisper.

*Thef.* Would you desire *Lime* and *Haire* to speake  
better? 165

*Deme.* It is the vvitteft partition, that euer I heard  
discourse, my Lord.

*Thef.* *Pyramus* drawes neere the *Wall*, silence.

*Enter Pyramus.*

*Pir.* O grim lookt night, ô night with hue so blacke,  
O night, which euer art, when day is not: 170  
O night, ô night, alacke, alacke, alacke,  
I feare my *Thisbies* promise is forgot.

And thou ô vvall, thou sweet and louely vvall,  
That stands betweene her fathers ground and mine,  
Thou vvall, ô vvall, ô sweet and louely vvall, 175  
Shew me thy chinke, to blinke through vvith mine eine.  
Thankes courteous vvall. *Ioue* shield thee vvell for this.  
But vvhat fee I? No *Thisbie* doe I fee.

O vicked vvall, through vvhom I fee no blisse,  
Curft be thy stones for thus deceiuing mee. 180

*Thef.* The vvall me - thinkes being sensible, should  
curse againe.

<sup>148</sup> drew F dyed F <sup>150</sup> do R *Exit all but Wall.* om. FR <sup>151</sup> FR <sup>56</sup>  
-der, F *Lyon* FR <sup>152</sup> .] F <sup>153</sup> do R *Thys* by F -by R *Moone-*  
*shine* R <sup>154</sup> enter- F -lude,] -lude FR <sup>155</sup> *Snowt* Flute FR <sup>156</sup> thinke,]  
thinke F <sup>157</sup> cranied F <sup>158</sup> *Pyramus*, F -by, FR <sup>159</sup> lome FR -] om. FR  
showe, F show. R <sup>161</sup> .] F <sup>162</sup> cranie F <sup>164</sup> speak R <sup>168</sup> *Pir-* R  
neare F .] F *Enter Pyramus.* om. FR <sup>169</sup> night, with F <sup>172</sup> -byes F  
<sup>173</sup> thou sweet and] ô sweete, ô FR <sup>174</sup> standt F <sup>175</sup> sweete FR <sup>176</sup> Showe  
mee F blink FR through, F <sup>177</sup> Thanks R cur- F well, F <sup>178</sup> -by FR  
do R <sup>179</sup> whome F <sup>180</sup> stones, FR me R <sup>181</sup> mee thinkes, F me-thinks R

*Pir.* No in truth fir, he should not. *Deceiuing me,*  
Is *Thisbies* cue ; she is to enter, and I am to spy  
Her through the vvall. You shall see it vvill fall. 185

*Enter Thisbie.*

Pat as I told you ; yonder she comes.

*Thisf.* O vvall, full often hast thou heard my mones,  
For parting my faire *Piramus*, and me.  
My cherry lips haue often kift thy stones ;  
Thy stones vvith Lime and Haire knit vp in thee. 190

*Pyra.* I see a voyce ; now vvill I to the chinke,  
To spy and I can heare my *Thisbies* face. *Thisbie?*

*Thisf.* My Loue thou art, my Loue I thinke.

*Pir.* Thinke vvhat thou vvilt, I am thy Louers grace,  
And like *Limander* am I trusty still. 195

*Thisf.* And like *Helen* till the Fates me kill.

*Pir.* Not *Shafalus* to *Procrus*, was so true.

*Thisf.* As *Shafalus* to *Procrus*, I to you.

*Pir.* O kisse me through the hole of this vile wall. [163<sup>1</sup>]

*Thisf.* I kisse the wals hole, not your lips at all. 200

*Pir.* Wilt thou at *Ninnies* tombe meete me straight  
way ?

*Thisf.* Tide life, tide death, I come without delay.

*Wall.* Thus haue I *Wall*, my part discharged so ;  
And being done, thus *Wall* away doth go. *Exit Clow.*

*Du.* Now is the morall downe betweene the two 205  
Neighbors.

*Dem.* No remedie my Lord, when Wals are so wil-  
full, to heare without vvarning.

*Dut.* This is the filliest stufte that ere I heard.

*Du.* The best in this kind are but shadowes, and the 210  
worst are no worse, if imagination amend them.

*Dut.* It must be your imagination then, & not theirs.

*Duk.* If wee imagine no worse of them then they of  
themselues, they may passe for excellent men. Here com  
two noble beafts, in a man and a Lion. 215

*Enter Lyon and Moone-shine.*

*Lyon.* You Ladies, you (whose gentle harts do feare

<sup>188</sup> No, F mee is / *Thisf* byes F <sup>184</sup> ;] : F enter] enter now FR <sup>186</sup> fall.]  
fall FR *Enter Thisbie.*] (follows line 186) FR -by F <sup>186</sup> FR 57 ;] : F  
<sup>188</sup> *Pyra.* F mee F <sup>190</sup> stones, F hayire F vp in thee] now againe FR  
<sup>191</sup> voice FR ;] : F <sup>192</sup> -byes F <sup>198</sup> -by FR <sup>194</sup> Grace : F <sup>196</sup> And, F  
<sup>198</sup> -der, FR <sup>196</sup> And] And I, F And I R *Helen*, FR <sup>197</sup> -alus, F <sup>199</sup> mee, F  
vilde F <sup>210</sup> walles F ;] : F <sup>201</sup> thou, F tombe, F toomb R straight-  
way R <sup>202</sup> tyde death F <sup>208</sup> I, F <sup>204</sup> And, F goe FR *Exit Clow.*  
om. FR <sup>206</sup> morall downe] Moon vsed FR between F <sup>207</sup> -dy, FR  
<sup>209</sup> stufte, F ere] euer F <sup>210</sup> best, F kinde, F kinde R ;] : F <sup>212</sup> -tion, F  
;] : F <sup>218</sup> we F them, F <sup>214</sup> Heere R come FR <sup>215</sup> Lyon FR  
Lyon, F <sup>216</sup> hearts FR

The smallest monstrous mouse that creepes on floore)  
 May now perchance, both quake and tremble heere,  
 When Lion rough in wildest rage doth roare.  
 Then know that I, one *Snug* the Ioyner am 220  
 A Lion fell, nor else no Lions dam :  
 For if I should as Lion come in strife  
 Into this place, 'twere pittie of my life.

*Du.* A verie gentle beast, and of a good conscience.

*Dem.* The verie best at a beast, my Lord, y<sup>e</sup> ere I saw. 225

*Lif.* This Lion is a verie Fox for his valor.

*Du.* True, and a Goose for his discretion.

*Dem.* Not so my Lord: for his valor cannot carrie  
 his discretion, and the Fox carries the Goose.

*Du.* His discretion I am sure cannot carrie his valor: 230  
 for the Goose carries not the Fox. It is well; leaue it to  
 his discretion, and let vs hearken to the Moone.

*Moon.* This Lanthorne doth the horned Moone pre-  
 sent.

*De.* He should haue worne the hornes on his head.

*Du.* Hee is no crescent, and his hornes are inuifible, 235  
 within the circumference.

*Moon.* This lanthorne doth the horned Moone pre-  
 sent: My selfe, the man i'th Moone doth seeme to be.

*Du.* This is the greatest error of all the rest; the man  
 should be put into the Lanthorne. How is it els the man 240  
 i'th Moone?

*Dem.* He dares not come there for the candle.  
 For you see, it is already in snuffe.

*Dut.* I am vvarie of this Moone; vvould he vvould  
 change. 245

*Du.* It appeares by his smal light of discretion, that  
 he is in the wane: but yet in courtesie, in all reason, vve  
 must stay the time.

*Lyf.* Proceed Moone.

*Moon.* All that I haue to say, is to tell you, that the 250  
 Lanthorne is the Moone; I, the man in the Moone; this  
 thorne bush, my thorne bush; and this dog, my dog.

217 mouse, F 218 now, F here F 219 Lyon rough, FR rage, F  
 220 one] as FR 221 FR58 Lyon FR Lyons damme FR :]. F, R  
 222 For, F should, FR Lyon, F Lyon R strife, FR 223 t'were R  
 -ty FR of] on FR 224 very FR 225 very FR 226 Lyon FR very FR  
 fox, F -our FR 227, ]: F 228 :]. FR -our FR -ry FR 229, ]: F; R  
 230 -tion, F fure, F -ry FR -our FR .]: FR 231 ;]: F 232 hearken]  
 listen F 234 hornes, F 235 He FR 237 present, /My FR 238 ith F  
 ith' R Moone, F doth] doe F do R 239 -our F 240 else FR 241 ith F  
 242 there, F candle. For/you F 244 aweary F weary R ;]. F hee  
 vvould F 246 appeares, F small FR 247 hee FR cur- FR wee F  
 249 -cedde, F 251 ;], F I the F in the] ith F ;], F 252, ]om. F ;], FR  
 dogge my dogge F

*Dem.* Why all these should be in the Lanthorne: for they are in the Moone. But silence, heere comes *Thisby*.

*Enter Thisby.*

*Thisby.* This is old *Ninnies* tombe: where is my loue? 255

*Lyon.* Oh.

*The Lion roares, Thisby runs off.*

*Dem.* Well roar'd Lion.

*Du.* Well run *Thisby*. [163<sup>2</sup>]

*Dut.* Well shone Moone.

Truly the Moone shines with a good grace. 260

*Du.* Wel mouz'd Lion.

*Dem.* And then came *Piramus*.

*Lyf.* And so the Lion vanisht.

*Enter Piramus.*

*Pyr.* Sweet Moone, I thank thee for thy funny beames,  
I thanke thee Moone, for shining now so bright: 265

For by thy gracious, golden, glittering beames,

I trust to taste of truest *Thisbies* fight.

But stay: O fight! but marke, poore Knight,

What dreadful dole is heere? 270

Eyes do you see! How can it be!

O dainty Ducke: O Deere!

Thy mantle good; what stained with blood!

Approch you Furies fell: 275

O Fates! come, come: Cut thred and thrum,

Quaile, cruell, conclude, and quell.

*Du.* This passion, and the death of a deare friend, 280

Would go neere to make a man looke sad.

*Dut.* Befhrew my heart, but I pittie the man.

*Pir.* O wherefore Nature, didst thou Lions frame?

Since Lion wilde hath heere deflour'd my deere:

Which is: no, no, which was the fairest Dame 285

That liu'd, that lou'd, that lik'd, that look'd with cheere.

Come teares, confound: Out sword, and wound

<sup>253</sup> Why? F bee F <sup>254</sup> they] all these F :], F here F <sup>255</sup> ould F  
Ninies FR tumble. F toomb: R wher's R loue? *Lyon.* Oh. / FR  
<sup>256</sup> .]om. R *The Lion roares, Thisby runs off.*]om. FR <sup>257</sup> FR59 roard, F  
roard R *Lyon* FR <sup>258</sup> runne, F runne R <sup>259</sup> Well . . . shines, / FR  
thoone R <sup>260</sup> True- R -ly, F shines, F <sup>261</sup> Well FR mouz'd, F  
*Lyon* FR <sup>262</sup> *Pyr.* F <sup>263</sup> *Lyon* FR *Pyr.* F <sup>264</sup> Sweete FR thanke  
thee, F beams. F <sup>265</sup> thee, F :]. FR <sup>266</sup> gracious F <sup>267</sup> taste] take FR  
-by F <sup>268</sup> full FR here FR <sup>269</sup> bee F <sup>270</sup> duck F :], FR  
deare FR <sup>271</sup> :], FR <sup>272</sup> what, F <sup>273</sup> Approach ye FR :], FR  
<sup>274</sup> []om. FR :], FR <sup>275</sup> thread and thrumme F <sup>276</sup> friend would / goe FR  
<sup>277</sup> Befhrew F -ty FR <sup>278</sup> O, wherefore, F <sup>279</sup> didst FR *Lyons* FR  
<sup>280</sup> *Lyon* FR here F :]. F ; R <sup>281</sup> :], FR no, no: F <sup>282</sup> lik't FR  
look't FR <sup>283</sup> .]om. R :], FR <sup>284</sup> .]om. R

The pap of *Piramus* :

I, that left pap, where heart doth hop ; 290

Thus dye I, thus, thus, thus.

Now am I dead, now am I fled, my foule is in the sky, 295

Tongue lose thy light, Moone take thy flight,

Now dye, dye, dye, dye, dye.

*Dem.* No Die, but an ace for him ; for he is but one.

*Lif.* Lesse then an ace man. For he is dead, he is no- 300  
thing.

*Du.* With the helpe of a Surgeon, he might yet reco-  
uer, and proue an Affe.

*Dut.* How chance Moone-shine is gone before?

*Thisby* comes backe, and findes her Louer. 305

*Enter Thisby.*

*Duke.* She wil finde him by starre-light.

Heere she comes, and her passion ends the play.

*Dut.* Me thinks thee should not vse a long one for  
such a *Piramus* : I hope she will be breefe.

*Dem.* A Moth will turne the ballance, which *Piramus* 310  
which *Thisby* is the better. (eyes.)

*Lyf.* She hath spyed him already, with those sweete

*Dem.* And thus she meanes, *videlicet.* 315

*This.* Asleepe my Loue? What, dead my Doue?

O *Piramus* arise :

Speake, Speake. Quite dumbe? Dead, dead? A tombe  
Must couer thy sweet eyes.

These Lilly Lips, this cherry nose, 320

These yellow Cowflip cheekes

Are gone, are gone : Louers make mone :

His eyes were greene as Leekes. 325

O sisters three, come, come to mee,

With hands as pale as Milke,

Lay them in gore, since you haue shore 330

With sheeres, his thred of filke.

Tongue not a word : Come trusty sword :

Come blade, my brest imbrue :

<sup>289</sup> pappe F *Pyr.* FR <sup>290</sup> pappe F <sup>291</sup> hoppe. F <sup>292</sup> dy F die R  
<sup>293</sup> foule, R, J. F <sup>294</sup> loofe F <sup>295</sup> dy, dy, dy, dy, dy. F <sup>296</sup> J. F <sup>297</sup> FR 60  
ace, F <sup>298</sup> Jom. R and yet prouue F <sup>299</sup> before? *Thisby*/comes F  
<sup>300</sup> *Enter Thisby.* Jom. FR <sup>301</sup> Shee . . . thee/ F She . . . comes, / R  
will FR him, F star- R <sup>302</sup> Here FR <sup>303</sup> Me-thinks R -kes, F she FR  
one, F <sup>304</sup> *Pyr.* F hope, F briefe FR <sup>305</sup> will FR J. F *Pyr.* F  
-mus, FR <sup>306</sup> Jie R better.] better: he (hee R) for a man; (, R) God  
warnd us: (; R) she, (Jom. R) for a woman; (, R) God bleffe vs. FR  
<sup>307</sup> spied FR cies R <sup>308</sup> *videlicet*; F <sup>309</sup> A sleepe F <sup>310</sup> *Piramus*, F  
J. FR <sup>311</sup> tumbe F toombe R <sup>312</sup> sweete FR cies R <sup>313</sup> lippes F  
<sup>314</sup> -lippe F <sup>315</sup> gon, are gon F J. R <sup>316</sup> greene, F <sup>317</sup> come, to F  
me R <sup>318</sup> threede F <sup>319</sup> Tongue, F word, R <sup>320</sup> J. FR <sup>321</sup> breaft  
imbrow FR

And farwell friends, thus *Thisbie* ends ; 335 [162<sup>1</sup>]  
Adieu, adieu, adieu.

*Duk.* Moon-shine & Lion are left to burie the dead.

*Deme.* I, and Wall too.

*Bot.* No, I assure you, the wall is downe, that parted 340  
their Fathers. Will it please you to see the Epilogue, or  
to heare a Bergomask dance, betweene two of our com-  
pany?

*Duk.* No Epilogue, I pray you ; for your play needs  
no excuse. Neuer excuse ; for when the plaiers are all 345  
dead, there need none to be blamed. Marry, if hee that  
writ it had plaid *Piramus*, and hung himselfe in *Thisbies*  
garter, it would haue beene a fine Tragedy : and so it is  
truely, and very notably discharg'd. But come, your  
Burgomaske ; let your Epilogue alone. 350

The iron tongue of midnight hath told twelue.

Louers to bed, 'tis almost Fairy time.

I feare we shall out-sleepe the comming morne,

As much as we this night haue ouer-watcht.

This palpable grosse play hath well beguil'd 355

The heauy gate of night. Sweet friends to bed.

A fortnight hold we this solemnity.

In nightly Reuels ; and new iollitie.

*Exeunt.*

*Enter Pucke.*

*Puck* Now the hungry Lyons rores,  
And the Wolfe beholds the Moone : 360

Whilest the heauy ploughman fnores,

All with weary taske fore-done.

Now the wasted brands doe glow,

Whil't the scritch-owle, scritch'ing loud,

Puts the wretch that lies in woe, 365

In remembrance of a throwd.

Now it is the time of night,

That the graues, all gaping wide,

Euery one lets forth his spright,

In the Church-way paths to glide. 370

And we Fairies, that do runne,

By the triple *Hecates* teame,

<sup>335</sup> farewell F ;] F <sup>336</sup> *Thysby* ends : F <sup>338</sup> *Moone*- FR Lyon FR  
bury FR to F <sup>340</sup> *Bot.*] *Lyon*. FR you the R <sup>341</sup> you, F <sup>342</sup> -make  
daunce, between F <sup>344</sup> FR <sup>345</sup> ;] F <sup>346</sup> ;] F players FR <sup>348</sup> deade F  
neede F Mary F he R <sup>347</sup> it, F played F *Pyr*- F hangd F hang'd R  
<sup>349</sup> come your F <sup>350</sup> ;] F <sup>351</sup> tolde FR <sup>352</sup> tis FR <sup>353</sup> -]om. F <sup>354</sup> wee F  
-]om. F <sup>355</sup> -ue F <sup>356</sup> Sweete friends, F <sup>357</sup> holde F -tie F ;] FR  
<sup>358</sup> ;] FR -ty FR <sup>359</sup> roares. F <sup>360</sup> ;] FR <sup>361</sup> Whilft FR -ue F  
<sup>362</sup> foredoone F <sup>363</sup> do R glowe F <sup>364</sup> Whilft FR sciech- F sciech-  
ing lowd F <sup>365</sup> wretch, F lyes F <sup>366</sup> throwde F <sup>370</sup> -]om. FR <sup>371</sup> wee F  
doe F runne R

60 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [V. I. 373-410.]

From the prefence of the Sunne,  
Following darkenesse like a dreame,  
Now are frolicke ; not a Mousse 375  
Shall disturbe this hallowed house.  
I am fent with broome before,  
To sweepe the dust behinde the doore.

*Enter King and Queene of Fairies, with their traine.*

*Ob.* Through the house giue glimmering light,  
By the dead and drowisie fier, 380 [162<sup>a</sup>]  
Euerie Elfe and Fairie spright,  
Hop as light as bird from brier,  
And this Ditty after me, sing and dance it trippinglie.

*Tita.* Firft rehearse this song by roate, 385  
To each word a warbling note.  
Hand in hand, with Fairie grace,  
Will we sing and blesse this place.

*The Song.*

*Now untill the breake of day,  
Through this house each Fairy stray. 390  
To the best Bride-bed will we,  
Which by vs shall blessed be :*

*And the issue there create,  
Euer shall be fortunate :  
So shall all the couples three, 395  
Euer true in louing be :*

*And the blots of Natures hand,  
Shall not in their issue stand.  
Neuer mole, harelip, nor scarre,  
Nor marke prodigious, such as are 400*

*Despised in Natiuitie,  
Shall vpon their children be.  
With this field dew consecrate,  
Euerie Fairy take his gate,  
And each seuerall chamber blesse, 405*

*Through this Pallace with sweet peace,  
Euer shall in safetie rest,  
And the owner of it blest.*

*Trip away, make no stay ;  
Meet me all by breake of day. 410*

<sup>374</sup> darknesse R <sup>375</sup> -lick : F <sup>377</sup> fent, F broome, F <sup>378</sup> FR 62  
sweepe FR dust, F dore F *their*] *all their* FR <sup>381</sup> Euerie FR Fairy FR  
<sup>382</sup> birde F <sup>383</sup> -tie F mee F <sup>384</sup> Sing, F daunce F -ly FR <sup>386</sup> this]  
your F rote F <sup>387</sup> -ry FR grace ; R <sup>388</sup> *The Song.*] *om.* FR <sup>389</sup> *Now*]  
*Ob.* Now FR Now, F <sup>390</sup> house, FR <sup>391</sup> bride bed F wee : F <sup>398</sup> issue, F  
<sup>396</sup> ,*om.* F <sup>397</sup> ,*om.* F <sup>399</sup> hare-lippe F hare-lip R <sup>401</sup> -ty R <sup>408</sup> deaw F  
<sup>406</sup> palace, FR <sup>409</sup> sweete FR <sup>410</sup> Trippe F ,:] F ::] F <sup>410</sup> Meete FR  
all, FR *day.*] *day.* *Exeunt.* FR

V. I. 411-426.] *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* 61

*Robin.* If we shadowes haue offended,  
 Thinke but this (and all is mended)  
 That you haue but slumbred heere,  
 While thefe vifions did appeare.  
 And this weake and idle theame, 415  
 No more yeelding but a dreame,  
 Centles, doe not reprehend.  
 If you pardon, we will mend.  
 And as I am an honest *Pucke*,  
 If we haue vnearned lucke, 420  
 Now to fcape the Serpents tongue,  
 We will make amends ere long :  
 Elfe the *Pucke* a lyar call.  
 So good night vnto you all.  
 Giue me your hands, if we be friends, 425  
 And *Robin* fhall reftore amends.

FINIS.

<sup>413</sup> FR68 here F <sup>414</sup> thefe] this R <sup>416</sup> yield- F <sup>417</sup> Gentles FR  
 do R <sup>418</sup> wee F <sup>419</sup> And, F *Puck* F <sup>420</sup> luck F <sup>422</sup> amends, F  
<sup>423</sup> Elfe, F *Puck* a lyer F <sup>424</sup> So, F <sup>426</sup> friends: F



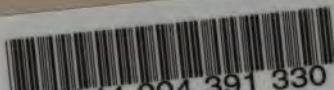












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